

'Would-be Bush assassin' held in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — Authorities have arrested a man who confessed he planned a suicide bomb attack against visiting former U.S. President George Bush, the defence minister said Tuesday. Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem, who is also a member of the ruling family, said the would-be attacker was one of 14 people detained in connection with an Iraqi plot against the emir. They drove from Iraq into Kuwait with carloads of explosives, Sheikh Ali said. After they were arrested, one of them confessed he planned to strap explosives around his waist and blow himself up, along with Mr. Bush, the defence minister said. Sheikh Ali said 17 people were implicated in the plot but three were still at large. The names have not been announced. Of the 17, five are Kuwaitis while the others are either Iraqi or "bidouns," the Kuwaiti term for long-term-stateless residents of the emirate who do not qualify for citizenship. The group crossed the border in a number of vehicles loaded with 100 kilograms of explosives, Sheikh Ali said. He said the man who planned the attack against Mr. Bush formulated the idea on his own and planned to act alone against the former president. Sheikh Ali did not say if the would-be assailant ever tried to carry out his plot nor whether there was any evidence against him apart from the alleged confession.

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Islamic network smashed, Cairo says

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian security forces have smashed a network of Islamic militants responsible for a series of attacks in Cairo, including last week's attempted assassination of Information Minister Saif Al Sherif, the interior ministry said Tuesday. It identified four of the eight suspects arrested as "leaders" of the network and said they had been trained in Afghanistan. They were arrested in the northern town of Mansura following the April 20 attack on Mr. Sherif. One of the gang's chiefs has been identified as 29-year-old Ashraf Al Sayed Ibrahim, a suspect in the murder last June of author Farag Foda. The other men were captured in search operations in Cairo and northern Egypt. The network is linked to the underground Al Jihad group responsible for the assassination of former President Anwar Sadat. All the suspects, the ministry said, admitted responsibility for the bombing of a tour bus outside Cairo's main archaeological museum in March, during which there were no casualties. They also claimed responsibility for another bomb attack last month in a central Cairo square, which killed a police officer, it added. The suspects said they had planned to murder public figures and police officers as well as bomb areas frequented by foreign tourists.

Jordan Times

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U.S. denies working with Egyptian cleric

Cairo (R) — The United States has denied its intelligence agents worked with a radical Muslim preacher living in New Jersey whose alleged followers have been charged with the World Trade Centre bombing. U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Robert Pelletreau was responding to reports which suggested Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman was allowed into the United States in 1990 because he helped the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) channel funds to guerrillas fighting the then-communist government in Afghanistan. U.S. and state-controlled Egyptian newspapers have both questioned the State Department's version that it made a mistake when it granted a visa to Sheikh Abdul Rahman, who had been tried three times in Egypt for inciting violence. "Our officials do not have operational contacts with Omar Abdul Rahman nor did they have such contacts with him in the past, as has been alleged, during the time of our support for the Mujahideen in Afghanistan," Mr. Pelletreau told a group of local businessmen. "That is a false accusation," he added in a text of the speech made available Tuesday.

UAE offers to resume talks with Iran

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has offered to resume negotiations with Iran to settle an island dispute that reversed an improvement in Tehran's relations with its Gulf Arab neighbours. UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zayed Al Nahayan made the offer in an address at a meeting of Islamic foreign ministers in Karachi Monday. "At a time when we have made great headway in restoring peace and security in our region, we reaffirm our readiness to continue a direct peaceful dialogue with the Islamic Republic of Iran to resolve the problem of the three islands, which belong to the UAE," he said. Official sources said Sheikh Hamdan discussed the dispute with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati when they met in Karachi Sunday. But they had no information if they agreed on the resumption of the negotiations.

UNITA says it downed U.N. plane

SAO TOME (R) — The Angolan rebel movement UNITA said Tuesday that it shot down a United Nations relief plane near the eastern city of Luena. One of the two Russian crewmen injured after the plane was forced down into a minefield died of his wounds, said the U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP), which chartered the plane. UNITA radio, monitored in the island state of Sao Tome and Principe, said its forces besieging Luena hit the Antonov An-12 transport with a missile on Monday and it crashed in flames.

Judges held hostage in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE (AP) — Gunmen holding 19 supreme court justices freed one magistrate Tuesday but pressed for a swift response to their demands for \$20 million and the release of an unspecified number of prisoners. Officials in Costa Rica and Colombia speculated that the kidnappers who stormed the court building Monday belong to Colombia's Medellin cocaine cartel and are seeking the release of four cartel members arrested in September who are now awaiting trial.

Pilots face charges in Indian air crash

AURANGABAD (AP) — Police accused two pilots of negligence Tuesday after an Indian Airlines jet hit a truck on takeoff and crashed, killing 56 passengers. The deaths were caused by rash and negligent behaviour of the pilots of the Boeing 737-200 whose wheels hit a truck laden with cotton bales Monday, city police chief Charan Singh Azad charged. Under Indian law, police can register a case on grounds of suspected negligence and start the investigation. Captain S.N. Singh, the pilot, and Captain Monisha Motian the co-pilot, have not been arrested.

Israel's 'goodwill' measures awaited

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Arabs and Israelis began a critical round of peace talks Tuesday after a four-month suspension and the United States served notice it would intervene to push the negotiations forward.

Israel held separate talks with Jordan, Lebanon and Syria Tuesday morning and was due to meet the Palestinian delegation in the afternoon.

As the talks got under way, the State Department announced that Secretary of State Warren Christopher would hold an unusual meeting with all the delegation heads of later Tuesday (see separate story).

Testifying before Senate Appropriations subcommittee, Mr. Christopher said Tuesday the parties had to make a real effort to solve problems — not just identify and talk about them.

"Negotiations must be seen to work. A new sense of urgency and intensity in the talks must be evident," said Syria's chief negotiator, Mouwafak Al Alail, welcomed the meeting with Mr. Christopher as a sign of a more active U.S. role. The previous administration of President George Bush had taken a largely hands-off

approach to the peace talks, urging the parties to solve their own problems.

"It seems there is a big impetus of the role of the two sponsors, especially the American sponsor," Mr. Al Alail said. "The proof of that is the meeting which will be held today with the secretary of state."

Russia and the United States are co-sponsors of the talks but Washington is by far the senior partner.

"We hope this is the beginning of a nice, good, constructive round," said Abdul Salam Al Majali, the chief Jordanian negotiator.

Israel's chief negotiator, Elyakim Rubinstein, said he hoped the Arabs were coming back to the table with a "spirit of goodwill." He said they would find the Israeli delegations "attentive and listening."

The Israelis were reportedly carrying a message listing a series of "goodwill gestures," but a member of the delegation would not confirm when those might be presented.

Israeli officials said concessions would include the return of the first 35 Palestinians from among more than 1,200 expelled before the uprising broke out in 1987.

Israel was also expected to offer other measures to improve conditions in the occupied territories and will establish a human rights subcommittee.

(Continued on page 6)

Syria warns of war if talks fail, page 2

Expellees since 1967 prepare to return home

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian expellees who are expected to be among the first batch of Palestinians to be allowed to return home waited in Amman Tuesday for a formal Israeli announcement of an American-sponsored plan to allow for the return of more than 2,000 Palestinians expelled by the Israeli occupation authorities since 1967.

Tears of joy and getting last-minute things done dominated Tuesday for the expellees, almost all of whom have made Jordan their home since their expulsion in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials confirmed Tuesday that an announcement of some 35 names was expected by Wednesday morning "at the latest."

"We expect that the return will take place either Thursday or Sunday — most probably Sunday," said Palestine Central Council (PCC) member and PLO official Saleh Raafat.

The repatriation of the exiles will be the first concrete step taken by Israel towards its Arab neighbours since the peace process began almost two years ago.

(Continued on page 6)

PLO gamble, page 7

Palestinians seeks neutral mission on water rights

GENEVA (Agencies) — A senior Palestinian official on Tuesday called for a neutral international mission to determine his people's rights to water on territories occupied by Israel.

Palestinian officials are confident that the gradual repatriation of some 2,000 expellees will take place in the next 12 months.

"We have been given to understand that people will be allowed back in groups of 30 to 50 people," said 1980 expellee Aisha Odeh.

Although Ms. Odeh will not be among the first batch of returnees she hopes to be allowed back home in the next 12 months.

"I hope that next year at this time I will be back home," said the political activist, who spent ten years in Israel.

Israel has said that it would defer the return of Palestinian expellees involved in military operations against the Jewish state as well as those holding high posts in the PLO and the Palestine National Council (PNC).

About half of those expected to be allowed to return belong to the PCC or PNC.

Heading the list of returnees is the chief of the Federation of Palestinian Women, Isam Abdul

(Continued on page 6)

PLO gamble, page 7

Christopher seen moving towards 'full partner role'

From Nermene Murad
in Washington

THE CLINTON administration may be taking its first step towards implementing its pledge to be a "full partner" in the Arab-Israeli peace process by calling a first-time closed meeting of all five parties to the negotiations.

Riyad Al Khoudary, a hydrologist professor from Gaza, told a news conference he had issued the call at the opening of a multilateral working group on water resources which is part of the overall Middle East peace process.

"We cannot proceed in the working group without assessing our water rights," he said. "A fact-finding mission is not a precondition but a demand of the Palestinian people."

Israel drew more than half its water from the springs and rivers of the occupied territories, and Palestinians say while they recognise Israeli needs they seek a more equitable share and an end to restrictions on their rights to dig wells.

"The starting point is our rights," said Mr. Khoudary.

"You can talk hundreds of hours about academic studies. (Continued on page 6)

This being the first round to be held after the Clinton administration came into office in January, the meeting called for by Mr. Christopher was seen by analysts here as first tangible indication of a more active role by the Americans.

"We understand the role of full partner as one that would bridge proposals, find common ground and one that would create conditions (for the U.S. to assume a) role in which it can act as guarantor of a settlement," Dr. Marwan Muasher, spokesman for the Jordanian delegation, said in an interview.

"We are encouraged by the fact that the meeting was called at such an early time in the round and indicates a heightened representation and a higher level involvement," Dr. Muasher said.

Added to these elements is a new U.S. initiative to assign liaison officers to each track of negotiations, "which indicates a day to day involvement and understanding of the position of the different parties."

The new liaison officers are a welcome development not only because of the increased U.S. involvement in each track but also because they are more senior than the ones who periodically handled such a U.S. daily involvement with the earlier administration, Dr. Muasher said.

While the "full partner" role is viewed as a positive development by (Continued on page 6)

King opens JTV satellite channel, urges media to live up to challenges

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday called on the Jordanian media to build a new Arab man, drawing from history and the heritage of the Arab Nation and capable of absorbing the demands of the modern age and culture.

In an address marking the launching of a satellite channel for Jordan Television, King Hussein said that the new Arab person should be helped to contribute to the "general Arab renaissance and the united Arab state and Arab unity which Great Arab Revolt had sought to achieve and for which our forefathers have offered sacrifices."

He said the crisis brought about a "retreat from the dream of unity and an Arab tendency towards retrogression, towards accepting subjugation and division and a loss of free will...."

But the most sinister thing, he added, "is the retreat among Arabs from everything that is related to Arabism or Islam towards replacing these concepts with what is called 'consumption-oriented culture and the crumbs of the culture of other nations,'" King Hussein said.

As a result of the crisis, we found ourselves facing numerous problems created by the retreat from pan-Arab culture and the principles of Arab thinking," King Hussein said.

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nian person, reflecting his continued drive to achieve the noble human ambitions."

"It is true that the past 25 years were full of challenges at the social, political and natural levels, but the new era abounds with immense challenges which the new generation should rise to meet with reason, science and action," King Hussein stressed.

The young generation, he added, "should be helped to carry the standards in the new stage and remain characterised with the spirit of enthusiasm and creativity so that we can relay a true image of the new Jordan to the outside world."

King Hussein emphasised the need for the media to remain open and ready to adapt to the new facts in society, "the society of freedom, democracy and human rights, and to be able to have a clear vision, avoiding immediate reaction to events."

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Home News

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King visits Akram Al Hourani

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday visited the house of the renowned Arab intellectual Akram Al Hourani and congratulated him on his safe arrival in Jordan, wishing him a happy stay in the country. Mr. Hourani voiced deep appreciation for the King's visit and wished him and Jordan further progress in the path of democracy, freedoms and human rights, which Jordan has charted for itself. The King was accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki.

Omani medical chief visits Army HQ, university

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces Lieutenant General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh received at his office Director of the Omani Royal Medical Services Brigadier Rafic Ben Hilal Ben Al Saad and the Omani delegation accompanying him. Lt. Gen. Kaabneh and the Omani guest discussed scopes of cooperation and exchange of expertise in the medical field. The Omani delegation later visited the University of Jordan, where they were briefed by its President Fawzi Gharaibeh on its development and achievements. Dr. Gharaibeh praised the brotherly relations between Jordan and Oman. The meeting was attended by Director of the Royal Medical Services in Jordan Maj. Gen. Yousef Qusous, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Alia's Touqan, and Director of the University of Jordan's hospital Samih Abu Al Ragheb. The delegation members toured the university and various sections of the hospital and expressed their admiration of the high standards of the university has achieved.

Nabatean exhibit to open in Basle

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, a special exhibition of Nabatean antiquities, organised by the Antiquities Department, will be held Thursday in Basle, Switzerland. On display at the exhibition will be the latest archaeological discoveries found by Swiss teams during their digs in Zantour, a site in Petra, as well as Um Al Walid and Um Al Rasas in Madaba. To prepare for the exhibition, Antiquities Department Director General Safwan Al Tal Tuesday left for Switzerland at the head of a delegation including Fawzi Zayadun and Sulaiman Farajat.

Ministry negotiates release of ship

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Foreign Ministry and the U.S. government were negotiating Tuesday the release of an Aqaba-bound cargo vessel with goods for Jordanian markets. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that U.S. naval forces intercepted the ship at the Straits of Tiran Monday as part of the U.N. policy of sanctions against Iraq. The ship was prevented from continuing to Aqaba because its captain was a Yugoslav national, Petra reported. The Malta flag ship is the fourth to be intercepted and prevented from continuing to its Aqaba destination. A Sudanese flag ship was intercepted on April 19 and two vessels were intercepted on April 17 and 14.

Deputy Premier meets with visiting Cypriot delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheinat Tuesday received a Cypriot delegation representing the Ministry of Communications and Public Works, headed by Michael Antonio, the ministry's assistant secretary general. The delegation briefed Dr. Suheinat on the outcome of the talks they held with Jordanian officials over the last two days. Talks focused on bilateral cooperation in the area of land transport and transit. The meeting was attended by the Ministry Secretary General Awad Al Tal.

Interior ministry approves Tafleeh council

TAFLEEH (Petra) — Interior Minister Jawdat Al Shoufi Tuesday endorsed the formation of a consultative council in Tafleeh governorate, headed by the governor and including Lower House of Parliament members from the governorate, representatives of the municipal and village councils, chambers of commerce and industry, the banking sector, representatives for societies, clubs, cooperatives, doctors, engineers, advocates and labourers. Tafleeh Governor Mohammad Al Talhouni, who heads the council, said it held its first meeting at the beginning of week, during which it discussed budgets of the projects proposed for later this year and plans of the social and service sectors for the next ten years. Talking about the council's composition, Mr. Talhouni said it is a local consultative council, representing all voluntary and non-governmental organisations. The council's term is for three years. It was formed in response to directives from His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan during a recent visit to Tafleeh governorate.

RJ team on Scandinavian fact-finding trip

COPENHAGEN (Petra) — A Royal Jordanian (RJ) team, headed by the executive director's assistant for economic research Ghada Badr, Tuesday concluded a ten-day fact-finding tour in the Scandinavian countries, aimed at promoting tourism to Jordan and air transport with Scandinavian countries. In a statement to a Petra correspondent here, Ms. Badr said the tour was aimed at undertaking a feasibility study on reoperating RJ flights to Scandinavian countries and building working relations between Scandinavian travel and tourist agents and their counterparts in Jordan, with a view to encouraging Scandinavian tourists to visit Jordan's touristic attractions and archaeological sites. Ms. Badr was accompanied on her tour by the RJ representative in the Scandinavian countries and its Copenhagen station manager, Maha Bitar. The tour included Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland.

Former U.S. senator to visit Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Former U.S. Senator George McGovern will arrive here May 4 on a three-day visit to Jordan, during which he will hold talks with Jordanian officials on issues related to the U.S. policy in the Middle East. Mr. McGovern heads the U.S. Council of Middle East Policies. The council seeks to ensure a better understanding of the Middle East issues.

Art work inspired by Jordan on display

AMMAN (J.T.) — Art work produced on paper by Kevin A. Hluch and weavings by Margaret Hluch will be on display at the Exhibitions Gallery of the American Centre, at the American Embassy.

The exhibition "Fragments: Weavings and Works on Paper" will run from April 28 to May 26 and is open to the general public from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The artists were inspired in their work by the historical pottery found throughout Jordan.

Kevin Hluch, who is a visiting Fulbright Lecturer in Art at Yarmouk University in Irbid, is exhibiting imaginative and reconstructive drawings on paper executed in conte pencil, a form of pastel, that reflect his love of pottery, abstract shapes, texture, and colour.

Egyptian hangs for murder

AMMAN (J.T.) — A 34-year-old Egyptian man, convicted of theft and murder, was hanged in the central prison at Swaqa, 100 kilometres south of Amman. Police officials said Tuesday.

Saber Abdul Hameed Al Abed was executed Sunday, they said.

The officials said Abed was convicted and sentenced to death for killing a middle-aged woman in Irbid, in July 1989.

Case records said he broke into the woman's house while she and her children were sleeping and stole her gold bracelets, and rings.

Before he was able to escape, the woman woke up, and Abed struck her on the head with a large stone.

He ran away while his victim bled to death.

Police refused to give the woman's name. But a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily identified the woman as Ibtisam Ibrahim Al Sbati.

Abed reportedly fled to Egypt after the crime. He returned two years later on a forged passport to seek work in Jordan.

At least three people have been hanged this year in Jordan, an unusually high number for the Kingdom whose security officials report a low-crime rate.

Labour delegation returns from Tehran

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Labour Secretary General Saleh Tarawneh Tuesday returned home after taking part in the 13th Conference of Labour Ministers in Asia and the Pacific countries, which concluded in Tehran on April 23.

Upon arrival, Mr. Tarawneh said the conference issued a statement stressing the need for development of human resources as the key to economic progress.

The conference called for adopting effective strategies and mechanisms of work to overcome unemployment and poverty and improve living conditions.

Mr. Tarawneh said the conference highlighted the importance of education, training and vocational and technical education in enhancing capacities to develop human resources and ensure agricultural development.

The statement called on Asian countries to direct special attention to the social dimension of economic development when preparing economic programmes and applying economic adjustment plans.

Jordan exposes housing dilemma in occupied lands

NAIROBI (Petra) — Jordan's delegate to the 14th meeting of the U.N. Centre for Human Settlements held in Nairobi, Kenya Tuesday said that Israel's demolition of Arab homes in the occupied Arab lands and its ban on Arabs building their own homes were partly responsible for the lack of sufficient homes for the growing population.

The occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip are densely populated, one-sixth of the population lives five persons to a single room, one-quarter of the population lacks proper drinking water and sanitation and one-fifth of them do not have electricity, said Yousef Hiyasat who is also director of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Restricted freedoms, confiscation of Arab lands and other arbitrary action on the part of the Israeli authorities have led to the deterioration of living conditions and housing facilities in the Arab lands and increased the ordeal of



Ministry of Transport Secretary General Awad Tal (right) and Assistant Minister of Public Works in Cyprus Michael Antonio Tuesday sign a protocol agreement on land transport and transit operations (Petra photo)

Jordan, Cyprus sign draft transport protocol

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Cyprus Monday signed a protocol on cooperation in land transport and transit operations which provides for the transportation of goods and passengers to and from the two countries, as well as transportation of Cypriot goods through Jordanian territory to other Arab countries.

The protocol also encourages annual maritime companies in Jordan and Cyprus to transport trucks and buses from Cyprus and Jordan to the nearest ports in the relevant Arab countries.

Ministry of Transport Secretary General Awad Tal and Assistant Minister of Public Works in Cyprus Michael Antonio signed the protocol.

Mr. Tal said the agreement was only a draft which is still to be ratified by the concerned ministers in both countries.

He said cooperation in the transportation of goods and passengers will be subjected to the countries' rules and regulations, but is likely to reflect positively

on the two countries' economies. The protocol, Mr. Tal added, will definitely benefit Jordanian truckers who will be involved in transit operations.

He told the Jordan Times that the agreement means that Jordanian trucks carrying goods from Jordan or other Arab states can be ferried to Cyprus and continue on to their destinations there.

On the return trip, these trucks will be permitted to carry Cypriot or European goods to be ferried back to the nearest Arab or Turkish ports, and continue over land to Jordan or beyond, he said.

The Cypriot government is more concerned to see the agreement implemented as Cyprus has significantly fewer trucks than Jordan, Mr. Tal said.

Jordan with 5,000 trucks, stands to do a lucrative business, according to Mr. Tal.

He said the draft agreement is now awaiting Cabinet approval before the concerned ministers can sign the deal.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Legend of Petra II" by artist Sama Shoma at the National Gallery for Fine Arts.
- ★ Art exhibition by Samia Al Zaru and Adnan Yahya at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of prints, entitled "Architectural Motifs from the Arab World," by Rima Farah at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan Intercontinental.
- ★ Exhibition of watercolour paintings by Lebanese artist Randa Berouti at Romero Restaurant.
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics by Margaret Tadros at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Dr. Laila Bustami at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FLOWER SHOW

- ★ Flower show of the Ilebana International Club of Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre (5 p.m. — 8 p.m.)

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, on German writer Heinrich Böll's life, work, literature and reception in the Arab World by Dr. Abd Al Aboud of the University of Homs at Yarmouk University's Faculty of Arts at 11 a.m.

Fuheisis to take pollution concerns to Royal Court

By Elia Nasrallah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In pursuing the drive to rid their town of pollution from the poisonous fumes and falling cement dust, the people of Fuheis now plan to take the matter to the Royal Court and the Prime Ministry's office.

A committee representing the townspeople told the Jordan Times that the pollution from the cement factory has been affecting their health with the continual fall of dust and poisonous fumes on their homes, gardens and streets.

The committee said it intends to see the help of His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker in dealing with the danger of dust that they say has overwhelmed their entire life.

A few weeks ago, hundreds of Fuheis staged a sit-in at the cement factory in a show of protest against the continued fall out, and the committee had earlier written to the Lower House of Parliament and met with some of its members to air their grievances, said Mr. Okla who heads the committee.

Mr. Okla told the Jordan Times that parliament members promised to do something about the situation and to see to it that the Jordan Cement Factory Company (JCFC) installs additional filters to minimise the amount of dust and fumes; but nothing has been done so far.

He said the committee has now distributed leaflets addressed to the public appealing for help to end the danger.

"It is our right to breathe pure air" read the title of the leaflet which was also distributed to the press.

"We, the representatives of Fuheis, announce that we will pursue various methods, including sit-ins, to protest to the concerned authorities in order to achieve our rights to uncontaminated air," the leaflet said.

Mr. Okla said the committee

was also directing its protest against the factory director who recently said in a television programme that the cement fumes and dust constituted no danger to the lives of the townspeople.

According to the leaflet, the residents of Fuheis do not demand the removal of cement factory, but they say additional filters are necessary.

"We are not creating a problem, but the problem persists despite the factory director's denial; and there is a real need for combined efforts on the part of the concerned authorities to save the town and its people," he urged.

As part of a solution to the problem, Dr. Share suggested that a conference be held at the national level, to debate this important issue.

"We support the local people's right, but at the same time we continue to urge the factory to speed up the installation of the additional equipment to remove the danger," said Dr. Share.

Mr. Okla provided the Jordan Times with copies of letters exchanged by government departments over the issue and a report by a government-appointed technical team which monitored the pollution and provided a report showing the presence of a high concentration of dust in the atmosphere of Fuheis, far higher than the level allowed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) standards.

The report, which as submitted to the department of the environment, said the factory was responsible for this high-level concentration.

Meawil Industry and Trade Minister Abdullah Ensour Monday visited the Jordan Cement Factories Company and discussed the company's measures to deal with pollution, according to the Jordan News Agency (Petra).

Factory Director Hatem Halwani and JCFC board members briefed the minister and told him the company was responding to the government's directives towards ensuring the safety of the environment.

Carment Trio to jazz it up

By Jean-Claude Elias

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Philippe Carment is back in Amman. The pianist gave superb performances last fall, and the city's jazz lovers will certainly be looking forward to more listening pleasure from his music.

The Philippe Carment Trio is presented by the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the French Cultural Centre in Amman.

The concert is scheduled for Thursday, April 29 at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

Carment plays traditional piano jazz but with a strong and pleasant modern touch.

His trio, Jean-Benoit Culot on drums, Lionel Guillemin on up-

right bass and himself on acoustic piano, deliver a very classy and polished sound.

Carment's music talks to those who like "good old" Dave Brubeck of the fifties and modern French virtuoso Michel Petrucciani alike.

In this sense, his jazz style can be qualified — but not labeled — as classical. Some of his compositions remind the listener of Brazilian pianist Eliane Elias.

As a genuine jazzman, Carment's improvisations are an undeniable proof of his creativity. But the listener is always able to follow the pianist through his improvisational path.

Carment doesn't try to "lose" his audience as some jazz musicians like to do — he obviously

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Economic Forum

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

Tale of two economic measures

The two measures under question are currency devaluation and free import policy.

Back in 1986, when the devaluation of the dinar was only a twinkle in the eyes of two or three persons in Jordan, this author published an article in one of Jordan's two dailies (*Al Dustour*, 26 Oct. 1986) warning very strongly against such devaluation. My argument was based on the following reasons:

- Jordan's export base is very narrow.
- Devaluation will entice capital flight and cause remittances of Jordanians working abroad to dry up.
- It will force further devaluations.

— Devaluation will lead to inflation, literally, I wrote, that inflation was the only guaranteed product of devaluation.

What followed is well-known history. The dinar was devalued, remittances dried up and capital started to migrate from Jordan. Instead of the initially perceived devaluation percentage of 10 per cent the dinar lost 50 per cent of its exchange rate. Imports had grown at an average annual rate of five per cent in the four-year period following the devaluation, after falling at an average annual rate of two per cent in the four years preceding it, in a very sharp contrast to the devaluation theory. Inflation jumped by 60 per cent in the same four years. At the time, nobody wanted to believe me; nobody seemed to believe something said by a Jordanian who claimed to have some knowledge of development economics.

Now let us read what the "Economist" wrote in a leading commentary in its issue of April 3, 1993 in the context of appraising the economic experience of Argentina and Mexico:

"Exchange rate theory for developed countries has been turned on its head in recent years. In the 1980s, the IMF insisted that countries devalue their currencies regularly to remain competitive and so to eliminate trade deficits. In fact, this fuelled inflation, while any gain in competitiveness was short-lived."

The devaluation of the Jordanian dinar shattered our economy to the point where we had to go, in hand, to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and to the extent where no economic policy manager now dares to mention the word "devaluation" in the context of the policy measures conceivable in the short, medium or long runs. But wait a minute!

The International Monetary Fund devised a scheme to remedy our economy and enable us repay our external debt. This is the famous economic adjustment programme which is based on rescheduling our debt, that is postponing its repayment until the turn of the next century.

Another very basic part of this programme is the adoption of a free import policy. This is a fatal defect in the programme and consequently I have been warning against it, as I did in 1986 regarding exactly the destructive effects of devaluation. Again nobody seems to heed this advice and I am very fearful that a story similar to the devaluation episode will be repeated, some time during the next few years.

My argument is that developing countries cannot afford open-door import policies because the fruits of any economic progress they will be channelled to the rest of the world through the open door of imports. The demand for imports rises as income grows. Even when poverty is apparent, income in developing countries is already concentrated or gets concentrated as development proceeds to the extent that it leads to high demand for imports at large and for luxury items in particular with and without the presence of poverty.

Actually, the commentary of the "Economist" pointed out that there were growing doubts about the sustainability of the success achieved by Argentina and Mexico in fields such as growth and inflation (similar, interestingly enough, to the success achieved last year by Jordan). And significantly enough, the "Economist" states that the major reason for these doubts was the "ballooning current-account deficits."

Now, a current account deficit is mainly generated by imports of goods and services which are greatly stimulated by free import policies. Short-term capital movements may dampen these deficits in the early stages of the adjustment programmes, but cannot do that for a longer period. At some point, the crisis strikes.

Again I warn against the catastrophic long-term effects of a free-import policy. I hope that I am on the wrong side this time although the behaviour of our imports of goods and services in 1992 and the early months of 1993 does confirm my fears.

LETTERS

Rights and responsibilities

To the Editor:

The hottest issue to hit the political scene in Jordan has been the drastic steps taken by the Jordanian government towards achieving democracy.

The words democracy and democratisation have recently become the new buzz words in parliamentary discussions, political party agendas, magazines, newspapers, and theatrical plays.

The Jordanians in general seem to have quickly got accustomed to this word as a regular part of their lives. We have been quick to cling to the word "democracy" when trying to justify the "rights" we feel must be granted under this new system of government.

However, we tend to sometimes conveniently ignore the fact that along with the rights granted to us we also inherit many difficult and challenging responsibilities. For our rights and responsibilities under a democracy are not mutually exclusive. If we are to demand our rights related to democracy, we must be willing to shoulder the responsibilities that go along with it. We must also guard against the temptation of becoming self-righteous, finger-pointing critics who use the freedoms granted under a democracy as a platform to criticise others in order to cover up our own inadequacies.

In my opinion, American President Theodore Roosevelt was able to accurately sum up the true essence of democracy when he said: "In the battle of life it is not the critic that counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of the deed could have done better; the credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again because there is no effort without error or shortcoming; who does actually strive to do the deeds, who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotions, spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best knows the triumph of high achievement and at worst if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who have tasted neither victory nor defeat."

Dr. Aida Dabbas,
Amman.**'Objective picture'**

To the Editor:

I refer to the article "JPMC net profit drops sharply" (Jordan Times, April 22, 1993), and would like to thank Mr. Samir Shafiq for his keen interest in JPMC's activities and financial results. However, it would have been much more appreciated if Mr. Shafiq had dealt with this matter taking into account in his analysis all factors related to the points raised in his article, to give the readers an objective picture instead of the gloomy one which the article reflected.

It is true that the net profit in 1992 dropped to JD 16.1 million, against JD 33.1 in 1991. But it is necessary to point out here the reasons for this drop which are due to the following facts:

In spite of the fact that Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) increased the volume of its sales in 1992, as compared to 1991, the total world phosphate exports dropped from 31.4 million tonnes in 1991 to 28.1 m.t in 1992; and although the share of JPMC in the world phosphate market increased in 1992 to reach 15.3 per cent, as compared to 13.7 per cent in 1991, thus putting Jordan in the position of the second largest exporter of rock phosphate in the world after Morocco, replacing the U.S. in this position, the total value of its sales decreased to reach JD 206.1 million, compared to JD 218 million in 1991 due to the sharp drop in international prices. This drop in prices was due mainly to the decrease in demand in European countries, and in particular East European countries, which led to more competition in other markets, especially the Asian countries.

Due to all these factors total value of sales decreased by JD 12.5 million.

- Increase in a number of expenditure items mainly:
- Transportation cost: JD 1.5 million.
- Axle load fines: JD 2.5 million.
- Provisions for doubtful debts (mainly Yugoslavia): JD 2.8 million.

- Interest caused by a higher size in used overdrift facilities: JD 0.7 million, as well as debiting the profit and loss account with interest related to loans used to finance projects before their capitalisation, JD 1.9 million, in compliance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- Depreciation expenses of fixed assets as a result of capitalising.

- Other expenses which affected the end results of 1992, attributed mainly to the normal increase in salaries and other fringe benefits offered by JPMC to its employees; JD 3.6 million.

As for the loss incurred by the fertilizer unit, it was due to the sharp drop in fertilizer prices because of large quantities of fertilizers offered by big producers at very low prices.

Mr. Shafiq's article omitted a number of other positive aspects such as:

1. Increase of production from 4.9 million tonnes in 1991 to 5.2 million tonnes in 1992.
2. Through its sales, JPMC generated \$305 million as hard currency and participated in easing the unemployment problem by employing 350 employees in 1992.

3. JPMC paid JD 72.3 million to the government treasury and other public institutions in the form of dividends, taxes, direct and indirect fees, etc., out of which JD 23.5 million represents mining fees and fines.

It would have been appreciated if the reporter referred to some important issues mentioned in the Annual Report such as:

- Joint-venture projects with an Indian company, and another with a consortium of Japanese companies.

- Rehabilitation of the fertilizer complex in Aqaba, costing \$30 million, which will increase the capacity of phosphoric acid by 25 per cent to reach 420,000 tonnes.

- Introducing the countertrade activities and other ways of payments in markets which face difficulties in having foreign exchange to pay for their purchases and to settle their outstanding debts.

- Finally, I would like to emphasise the keen interest of JPMC management to exert all possible efforts to overcome all difficulties and impediments resulting from uncontrollable political and economic factors.

- We hope that this clarification would give you and the readers a clear and better picture of JPMC, the challenges it faces, and the better future prospects it aims at.

Thabet Taher,
Managing Director,
Amman.

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Human rights — nothing less, nothing more

ALTHOUGH MUCH hope is being placed on the U.N. World Conference on Human Rights, scheduled to meet in Vienna this June, there are growing fears that the international meeting might be a failure. The gap between the perspectives of the developed and developing countries could be bridged and some progress can be made on the efforts of the United Nations to attain human rights standards on the basis that the existing human conditions do not allow for applying the existing human rights norms as currently exist. The task ahead is already assuming underdeveloped importance of attempting to exploit the platform of the conference for launching a campaign for greater human rights and a new form of concentrating on human rights per se.

Both camps have legitimate concerns. On one hand, there are basic civil and political rights which must and must still be developed and implemented, there are also a number of important human rights that must be attained at the same level of socio-economic development before they can be expected to be honoured and observed.

The current position facing the Vienna conference is the fact that neither side is truly talking with the other, but rather, basing itself on their own respective interpretation of what should be the agenda of the gathering on human rights. Many of the many sessions were held in the course of the conference in order to agree on the agenda. The last session was held among developing countries with poor human rights records have come up with calls for a special committee to the "particularities" of developing countries. That was never the intention of the conference, but nevertheless, the meeting on human rights in the West would say, and pursuing such a course would be the Vienna conference counterproductive at best.

Editorial Commentaries

ALL indications starting the ninth round of talks with the U.S. Washington Treaty realize that they have arrived at a standstill relatively but were driven there by some of the Americans and the Israelis will, this time, keep their cards close to their chest. To the full logical conclusion, such a standstill may end destroying the universality of human rights negotiations. That was never the intention of the conference on human rights in Washington this time in view of the fact that the Arab Nation is keen on achieving a breakthrough and pessimistic about the outcome of the negotiations. The Arab nations realize that the West are talking to murderers and occupiers of Arab lands and peoples but, nonetheless, they are there to keep the Americans one more chance, it said. In the same way, should these talks prove futile this time and end in a standstill, it will be a new source of real Arab and Islamic anger and frustration to its dimension and consequences. The Arab nations went to Washington this time in view of the fact that the Arab Nation is keen on achieving a breakthrough and pessimistic about the outcome of the negotiations. The Arab nations realize that the West are talking to murderers and occupiers of Arab lands and peoples but, nonetheless, they are there to keep the Americans one more chance, it said. In the same way, should these talks prove futile this time and end in a standstill, it will be a new source of real Arab and Islamic anger and frustration to its dimension and consequences. The Arab nations went to Washington this time in view of the fact that the Arab Nation is keen on achieving a breakthrough and pessimistic about the outcome of the negotiations. The Arab nations realize that the West are talking to murderers and occupiers of Arab lands and peoples but, nonetheless, they are there to keep the Americans one more chance, it said. In the same way, should these talks prove futile this time and end in a standstill, it will be a new source of real Arab and Islamic anger and frustration to its dimension and consequences.

THE LEARNER in Al Rayy Arabic daily voiced appreciation of a decision to exempt local farmers from paying JD 4.5 million in interest on their loans. Tareq Masarweh said this step will no doubt encourage the local farmers to start loaning themselves to the Agricultural Credit Bank and other money-lending institutions. But the writer said the government now should also deal with the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (ICO) to release the former's money and is unable to retrieve the amount of JD 24 million. The government ought to help the cooperative maintain its current assistance to the local farmers and some time has to help the corporation to pay back its debts to the banks and cooperative societies from which it had borrowed the money to give the farmers, said the writer. Research also demanded that the Ministry of Agriculture get rid of agricultural and marketing system enabling farmers to produce, sell and invest, and saving the country from the grip of speculators revolving around the farmers' debts. The writer said the prime minister to intervene, back these views and end these problems.

by Alison Smale
The Associated Press

ZAGREB, Croatia — The rejection of a compromise peace plan by the leader of Bosnia's Serbs

which has already been accepted by Bosnia's Muslims and Croats.

Lord Owen, who drew up the plan along with U.N. envoy Cyrus Vance, suggested Mr. Karadzic is risking dragging all Serbs "into a devastating conflict with the international community," said Lord Owen's spokesman, Fred Eckhardt.

Hard-line Serbs in Yugoslavia, which officially has taken no part in Bosnia's war, almost seem anxious for Western intervention. They have long seen the world as unjustly denying Serbs their dream of a "greater Serbia."

If the West intervenes in Bosnia, Yugoslavia should immediately join the war," said ultra-nationalist Vojislav Seselj, whose party is the second strongest in Serbia, the dominant republic in Yugoslavia.

The West seems as unwilling as ever to risk the lives of ground troops to impose peace. But even air strikes or other limited actions will stir Serb belligerence and

undo any peace process and possibly widen the war.

"I am totally sceptical of the idea of quick, clean, Rambo-like, clinical strikes," said Cedric Thornberry, the United Nations' most senior civilian official in former Yugoslavia. "All that's going to do... is solidify the opposition and probably destroy the U.N. presence."

The world has shown concern even though its political leaders are unwilling or unable to devise a diplomatic settlement.

Comparisons of Serb "ethnic cleansing" campaign with the Nazi holocaust abounded amid memorials to the World War II genocide last week. All sides have been accused of atrocities, but Serbs have been blamed most for forcing people from their homes in order to seize territory.

Thousands of U.N. peacekeepers protecting humanitarian aid convoys helped keep Sarajevo and hundreds of thousands of other Bosnians alive through the winter.

If the Serbs are attacked by the West, they would be free to turn the firepower of the old Yugoslav army, once estimated to be Europe's fifth biggest, with much more ferocity on Bosnia.

That could restart the war in Croatia or ignite fresh battles in Serbia's Kosovo province and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which could drag in neighbouring Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Turkey.

The Serbs might also find it easier to convince outsiders, particularly hard-line orthodox Slav brethren in Russia that they deserve support. The Soviet Union was a key ally of former Yugoslavia.

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Peres: It is for us to solve our problems courageously and realistically

The following interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres appeared in the April 23, 1993, issue of the Jerusalem Post.

The upcoming talks A lot of things have changed since last December, when Israelis and Arabs last held talks. The new Clinton administration is talking about becoming a "full partner" in the peace process. There's greater Palestinian dissent in the territories. The Likud now has a spokesman, with the election of Benjamin Netanyahu. How might all this affect the talks?

Today the situation is more complicated than it was a few months ago. Undoubtedly. And yet the occasion is here. And I think as far as Israel is concerned, we have to tell our public some facts of life: In these negotiations, Israel has unavoidably been more on the giving side than the Palestinians, for the simple reason that the Palestinians have very little to offer.

It's an asymmetrical negotiation?

It's an asymmetrical negotiation. There is no sense in creating false expectations ... You cannot come to the Palestinians and say we will give you part of the West Bank if you give us part of the West Bank. The West Bank is in our hands, out their hands. By definition, that is an asymmetric situation.

Secondly, much depends upon us. And we should not look around to others to solve our problems. It is for us to solve our problems courageously and realistically. The price of peace is almost set. So, we have to concentrate more on the nature of peace. That's where the real opportunities are.

Where should the public look for progress? In your view, what would be a realistic goal for this round?

To conclude an agreement on autonomy.

In this round?

Yes. (We can clear up) at least most of the disputed issues.

You think that's possible?

I think it is needed. And I don't exclude that this can be attained. You're saying that you think that by the end of this round the basic outlines of autonomy will be agreed upon?

Yes.



Shimon Peres

Do the negotiations have to be accelerated because of the recent violence?

Not only the violence, the opposition ... Timing here is crucial. That's been my feeling about it from the very beginning. Not just to advance, but to advance quickly is a must.

Have you got any indication from the Americans and the Palestinians that things are ripe enough for that sort of progress in this round?

I am not going to speak on their behalf. I think as far as we are concerned, we have decided really to try our best to reach an agreement.

What about the U.S. role? How would that make a difference?

The Americans themselves said this time they are a facilitator and bridge builder, not a mediator or a cocreator. You know, every time you start the negotiations, you don't have to return to Mount Sinai and come back with 10 commandments. You have to

be pragmatic about it ... You have to see where you want to arrive and act accordingly. But every time to issue a list of rules and conditions seems childish to me.

There was a special debate in the Knesset, with the Likud complaining that Israel is not making any demands on the Palestinians to stop the violence. How do you respond? Perhaps Faisal Husseini can't stop Hamas, but why can't he stop the "Fatah Hawks?"

The problem is that the people we are negotiating with cannot stop the shooting. We don't negotiate with the ones who shoot. If you make a condition that those who are shooting will stop shooting, you will make them the real partners and you hand over the negotiations to the terrorists.

You have reportedly met Husseini several times. What is your measure of the man? Can he make difficult decisions?

I would like to make any personal remarks. To be a leader in war is one thing, to be a leader

in peace is another thing. When you are a leader at war, people applaud you if you win and curse you if you lose. But when you are negotiating, people never applaud you when you make concessions. They may applaud you (only) when you reach peace. So I appreciate the delicate situations of all the leaders in the negotiations.

Final status talks

You said earlier that the price of peace is set, meaning everyone knows what the final status talks will be about.

Yes, more or less.

Do you mean a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation?

In my judgment, yes.

So if the final outcome is basically agreed upon, why don't we get to the crux of it already?

Because then we will marry two negotiations under the same hupa.

What's wrong with that? If we should start to negotiate

today the nature of the permanent solution while we are negotiating the interim solution, we shall discover that we have two very tough negotiations without a chance to agree on them.

I say that in order to deal with the permanent solution, we have to create another climate. I see the interim solution a voyage from a cold climate to a Mediterranean climate. For that reason I look upon the interim solution not in terms of geography but in terms of time. The necessary time that is really needed.

But wouldn't you agree that the recent waves of violence have shown that facts on the ground can overwhelm what happens at the table? Isn't it better to start planning where this voyage is going to end up?

Planning, yes. But agreeing is impossible because under the present climate we cannot reach an agreement about the map. Let's face it. If we start with the shores we want to arrive at, we shall discover that we cannot agree on the voyage. In order to agree on the map we will need

6-7 per cent at best.

I cannot imagine we should tell them that your workers don't have the right to come to our side and yet we shall remain the policemen on your side. It is either-or. Either the responsibility is divided or the responsibility is shared. But you cannot have it half and half. I look on (the closure) as a temporary measure. It wasn't planned. It was taken as a reaction to an impossible situation and it was an understandable reaction.

We have to play it by ear. It has had some side effects which are important. For example, the Israeli public today does now

sense what it means to work together but live separately, to have the Palestinians run their life in their places with us running our lives in our places. That's a great advantage.

So do you mean that you want to lift this pretty soon?

I think gradually this will be lifted.

Over the next month?

I don't know. I don't want to predict.

Negotiations with the Syrians

Let's turn to Syria for a second. The prime minister has made it clear that he would prefer movement on the Syrian front, which he believes would promote movement on the Palestinian front. How likely is progress with the Syrians?

The Syrians are keen on reading their own situation. The Palestinians don't have a situation in their own state as the Syrians do. Let's not forget that (President Hafez) Assad is from a minority (group) that he rules single-handedly.

There may be some changes in Syria. By having tension with Israel, he justifies his own rule. I think he realizes the time has come for peace. He wants an impossible negotiation. Namely, Israel first of all, hand over everything he requests and then (he) will negotiate about what Israel gets in return. That is real illogical.

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Iraq displays military wares to mark Saddam's birthday

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Iraqi armed forces staged their first military parade since the Gulf war Monday to mark the 56th birthday of President Saddam Hussein, who attended the display in Baghdad.

Iraqi television late Monday showed the ceremony, which was called the "Parade of the Mother of All Battles," after the Iraqi name given to the Gulf war of January–February 1991.

Surface-to-surface Tarek, Raad and Ababil missiles on mobile rocket launchers featured in the three-hour display designed to show Iraq's military recovery since then.

According to Iraqi sources, these missiles have a range of less than 150 kilometres and are not banned by the United Nations, which has demanded the elimination of all Iraq's non-conventional weapons.

Warplanes and helicopter gunships flew overhead during the demonstration, which also included displays of surface-to-air missiles, four-barrelled anti-aircraft guns, tanks, mobile canons and armoured cars.

Units of the elite Republican Guard marched to martial music before the official reviewing stand where President Saddam in beret and battle dress, a revolver at his belt, stood to take their salute.

Five warplanes flew in a low formation over the capital, and one plane was refuelled in flight.

It was the first Iraqi military parade since one held in 1989 after the end of the eight-year war with Iran.

The Iraqi army, whose numbers were reduced by 60 per cent after the Gulf war, currently has some 400,000 men, and can count on support from an air force estimated to have more than 300

warplanes at its disposal.

Foreign journalists in Iraq were not informed in advance of the military display, which took place near Baghdad's commercial centre, at a large ceremonial stadium.

President Saddam celebrates his birthday on April 28 and large-scale preparations are underway in Baghdad and his birthplace, the province of Tikrit, 180 kilometres north of the capital.

Iraq last held a military parade in 1989, almost a year and a half before the start of the Gulf war.

Nuclear fuel

Iraq has agreed in principle to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to remove 35 kilogrammes of nuclear fuel from a site southeast of Baghdad, IAEA spokesman David Kyd said Monday.

The nuclear fuel, currently under seal at Al Tuwaitha, will "very likely" be sent to Russia, reliable sources said in Vienna.

The operation will be by air, in two trips, and may begin in July and be completed towards the end of the year, the sources said.

The cost, estimated at \$20 million, is to be borne by Baghdad under the U.N. sanctions imposed on Iraq in the wake of the Gulf war.

The agreement in principle between IAEA and Baghdad sets out the steps the Iraqis are to take before the dangerous materials are transported, and was signed last week by IAEA Deputy Director-General Maurizio Zifferero during a visit to Iraq, Mr. Kyd said. Mr. Zifferero returned to Vienna last weekend.

The IAEA must first sign a parallel agreement with Moscow, the sources said.

Iran starts exercise

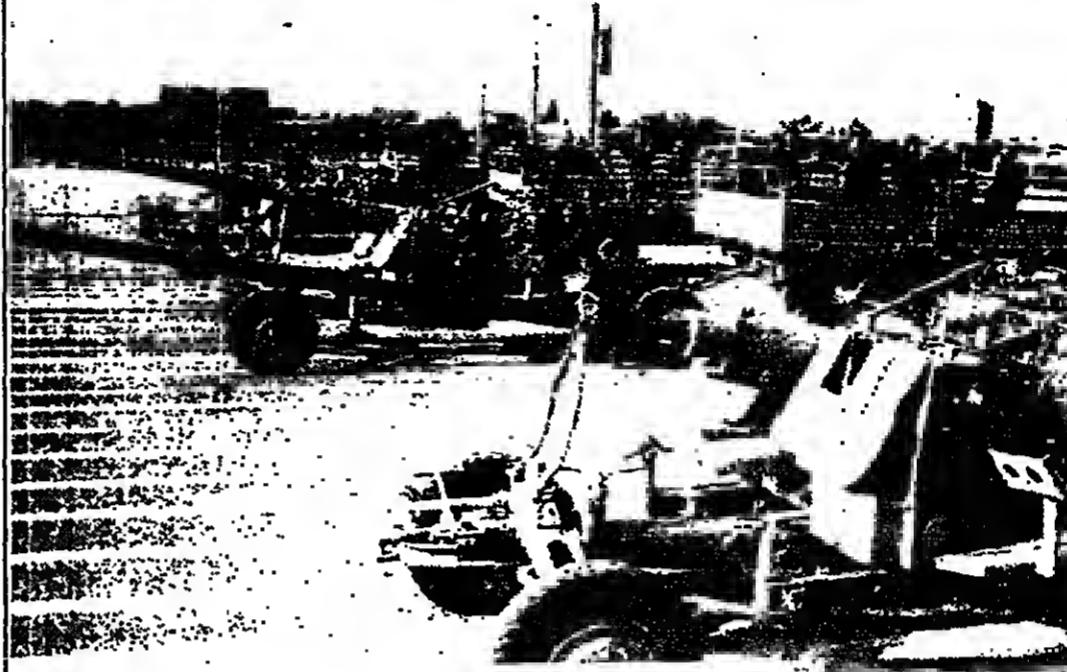
Iran started 10 days of military exercises in the northern Gulf Monday involving 36,000 sailors, soldiers and airmen, Iranian Television said.

The official news agency IRNA said Sunday ground, air and naval units, revolutionary guards and the country's "submarine unit" would take part in the six-stage Victory-4 exercise.



Iraqi President Saddam Hussein takes the salute at a military parade in Baghdad Monday. (Down)

Iraqi howitzers roll through Baghdad during the parade (AFP photo)



Iraqi howitzers roll through Baghdad during the parade (AFP photo)

Rabbani defiant against Hekmatyar's blockade

KABUL (AFP) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani remained defiant Tuesday as a blockade imposed on Kabul by armed forces of his rival, Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, began to bite.

"This blockade is not an Islamic action, moreover it is not humanitarian," presidential spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad said.

The blockade was put into effect Saturday by commanders of Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction, in protest at Mr. Rabbani's refusal to come to terms over the choice of a new government.

"Hezb is trying to pressure the people of Kabul but the spirit of the people is greater than the pressure of those Hezb commanders," Mr. Morad said.

Mr. Morad said he was confident the people would rise up and demonstrate against this injustice.

A popular uprising against Mr. Rabbani is also expected by the

Hezb commanders making the blockade.

However, even if the generally docile Kabul citizens did make any overt challenge to central authority they say they would expect swift reprisal.

"How could the people aspire against the government. If they did they would get shot," shugged a shopkeeper.

The simmering leadership feud between Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar, which was evident during the 14-year-old war against Soviet and Kabul government forces, erupted after the April 1992 victory of the Mujahideen over the communist regime of president Najibullah.

Mr. Rabbani's Jamiat-e-Islami faction forces, led by Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud, have fought Hezb in several battles for the uncontested control of the capital.

The last round of seven weeks of bloody clashes in January–February this year resulted in a stalemate which led to the March

In the most dramatic price... ke

signing of the Islamabad peace accords in which Mr. Hekmatyar was nominated prime minister-designate.

Mr. Rabbani has steadfastly refused to accept Mr. Hekmatyar's list of cabinet proposals, in which Mr. Masoud is neutered by demotion from the vital defence portfolio to the sinecures of deputy prime minister and chairman of a committee in charge of foreign affairs.

In order to resolve this political impasse peacefully a meeting of the majority of the Mujahideen faction leaders has been scheduled for two days' time.

Meanwhile the prices of essential commodities in the bazaars would like to rise.

"As far as I know, the problem is a technical one, and power should be restored tomorrow or the day after," Mr. Morad said.

He said that if necessary the coloured lights strung up around the city for Wednesday's anniversary celebration of the Islamic victory in Afghanistan would be lit by diesel generators.

ding the withdrawal of the Arab parties from the peace negotiations and the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799.

In a statement coinciding with the resumption of the peace talks, the Brotherhood's representatives in Parliament also called on the Arab countries to extend support for the Palestinian intifada and the "revival of the Eastern front" as a substitute for the "futile" peace process.

They also demanded that Arab masses and political forces and the media exercise a "responsible role" and condemn the continued peace negotiations.

The Brotherhood sent cables to the prime ministers of Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and the Palestine president demanding that they withdraw their delegations from the negotiations and direct their countries efforts towards "mobilisation and unity and to extend support for the Palestinian people."

The group demanded:

— Immediate withdrawal of all Arab parties from the multilateral as well as the bilateral talks and ending all contacts with Israel;

— Intensification of international efforts for the implementation of Resolution 799 and the repatriation of the Palestinian expellees;

— Support for the intifada;

— The revival of the "eastern front" to confront Zionist ambitions;

— Arab government consultations with their people to mobilise to help start a general programme of Jihad to liberate the occupied lands;

— Popular Arab condemnation of the negotiations process; and

— Arab rejection of any "subjugation to the American hegemony."

They stomped on and tore a Palestinian flag and denounced Mr. Rabin, who authorised the negotiations to offer "territorial compromises," as a "traitor."

In wooing the Palestinians back to the table, Mr. Christopher had offered a number of assurances, and he said the talks might lead to self-government.

Mr. Christopher also told an Arab-American group last Friday night: "I am determined that we not only see an evenhanded but that we actually are evenhanded."

In Amman, the Muslim Brotherhood bloc in the Lower House of Parliament issued a statement demanding that the Arab side, the translation of the Christopher meeting as an indication of a commitment to comprehensiveness of a long way in alleviating the fear of any possibility of having individual Arab countries sign Camp David-style separate peace treaties with Israel.

"We are encouraged by the fact that the Arab party are meeting as one team which obviously adds to the sense of comprehensiveness," Dr. Muasher said.

To the Arab side, the translation of the Christopher meeting as an indication of a commitment to comprehensiveness of a long way in alleviating the fear of any possibility of having individual Arab countries sign Camp David-style separate peace treaties with Israel.

Mr. Khoudary noted that unlike Israeli settlers in the occupied territories, the Palestinians are prohibited by Israel from digging new wells or enlarging existing ones.

But he said, citing the Israeli delegation, that Israel had accepted that Arab-Israeli talks opening Tuesday in Washington

also cover the issue of water-sharing.

The Geneva talks opened a few hours before the key bilateral negotiations were set to restart.

A total of 40 countries, including Israel and 13 Arab states,

were taking part in the meeting here which is co-chaired by the United States, Russia, the European Community (EC), Japan, the World Bank and host nation

with Israel.

The Tuesday afternoon meeting was including heads of all Arab delegations with one extra negotiator from those teams adding up to eight negotiators. The Israelis will be represented by two members from each of their negotiating teams totalling six Israeli negotiators. Jordan will be represented by chief delegate Abdul Salam Majali and Ambassador Fayed Tarawneh.

Syria and Lebanon boycotted the meeting, as they did earlier rounds in Vienna and Washington.

The establishment of a human rights working group, in which

Palestinians seek neutral panel

(Continued from page 1)

about regional cooperation, about this and that. So long as we are not treated as a party with full rights like other parties of the area no advances can be made," he warned.

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The establishment of a human rights working group, in which

we believe it is a dangerous spin. They hoped it could be rectified in Tues-

Pentagon seeks \$750m to finance Somali action

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Pentagon asked the Congress Monday to take \$750 million from "Star Wars" research and other areas of current defence spending to pay for the U.S. military's operations in Somalia.

"There are no more painless pockets to tap," Defence Secretary Les Aspin told reporters, noting that the American humanitarian effort will officially end in early May although a few thousand U.S. troops will remain in the area for emergencies.

Mr. Aspin said at a news conference that his request to "re-programme" fiscal 1993 Pentagon funds from such areas as the anti-missile Strategic Defence Initiative, commonly called "Star Wars", to pay the Somalia bill was to make sure that the money does not come from daily military operations costs.

"Reduced defence budgets severely limit the flexibility we have to do things like the Somalia reprogramming," he said. "The problem is we're talking about a fiscal year 1993 budget which is already tight when it comes to finding sources."

Mr. Aspin's statement came as U.S. marines in the capital of Mogadishu Monday ended a five-month humanitarian mission to Somalia when they handed over control of the city to a United Nations military force.

The Pentagon request, which requires approval by the Senate and House of Representatives armed services and appropriations committees, includes re-programming of \$80 million in Star Wars funds, \$274 million from immediate spending on new executive and cargo jet aircraft, \$136 million for lower-priority military equipment and other areas.

Mr. Aspin noted that some lawmakers might object to some of the shifts in funds.

"You can make a case for some of those things on that list, but it's going to be harder and harder," he said. "There are no more free goodies out there."

In Mogadishu Monday, a Pakistani regiment, part of a new 30,000-strong U.N. force to be deployed in Somalia to help take over the policing of the city from the 2,500 U.S. marines scheduled to fly home Wednesday.

The U.S.-led coalition came ashore Dec. 9 to help it the distribution of aid to the country's starving and sick. Some 350,000 people died last year in Somalia from famine and disease.

Next week — possibly Tuesday — the United Nations is expected to assume overall operational control, and start the mammoth task of rebuilding war-torn Somalia. Among the U.N. troops are 500 Pakistanis.

Monday's ceremony had a bit of an impromptu flavour, bowdlerised after it was discovered that last known tape of the American anthem in Somalia had apparently been packed in a hurry by other Marines who had already flown home.

So a 22-year-old Marine, who had sung the anthem at a couple

of basketball games back home agreed to perform.

Marine Colonel Buck Bedard, who has been commanding U.S. forces in the capital, said the soldiers, Somali police officers and civilians gathered at the ceremony.

He said he took a final drive around the city to compare conditions with when he arrived.

"It was a city where the gunfighting was bad. No one went out at night," Col. Bedard recalled. "Today, schools are open. The Somalis' police force is back in their barracks. Shops are open. Markets are thriving. We have freedom of movement, day or night. I feel very good about what we have done."

Also Monday, a U.S. amphibious unit containing 3,500 Marines and sailors pulled out from the southern port city of Kisimayu, where it has been bolstering Belgian forces. Their departure reduces the American contingent in Somalia to 7,000.

U.S. army soldiers hand over Merca, the last sector in their Americans' control, to the troops from Pakistan Wednesday. Then U.N. begins shouldering most of the operation's costs Saturday.

Marines and soldiers have been leaving in groups of 350 or more, nearly every other day for the last week. The total American forces will dwindle to about 4,000 over the next year as part of the U.N. force.

The remaining U.S. troops' duties will vary widely. They will include a quick-reaction force that will respond to outbreaks of trouble in the country.

Although some American personnel will remain in Mogadishu — both on the streets and in command and support roles — they are largely being replaced by the Pakistanis.

Canada orders military probe

Canada has ordered a military board of inquiry into the deaths of three Somalis allegedly killed by Canadian soldiers and one who died of a bearing while in their custody, Defence Minister Kim Campbell said Monday.

"It will inquire into whether any of the concerns arising from this Canadian forces operation are the result of systematic problems, particularly in the Canadian airborne regiment," Ms. Campbell said.

Ms. Campbell said she has been careful not to discuss the details of the incidents, two of which are under investigation.

But concerns over the secretions surrounding the deaths and injuries of Canadian forces have prompted her to take action, she said.

"There have been press comments about violence and racism exhibited by Canadian troops in Somalia," Ms. Campbell said.

Three Somalis have allegedly been shot by Canadian soldiers, and one has died in their custody in the last three months.

Little response to call for Eritrea aid

By David Ghazan
Ag

Middle East News



MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanese teachers start indefinite strike

BEIRUT (R) — Most of Lebanon's 70,000 teachers began an indefinite strike Tuesday, presenting the six-month-old government of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri with its first major labour dispute. Most private and public schools failed to open, in response to orders by teachers' unions demanding pay raises and more benefits. Mr. Hariri, a banking and construction tycoon in his first political post, formed a government in October, pledging to revive the economy after 15 years of civil war. In another pay dispute, Lebanon's 375 judges are discussing whether to resign in protest at the government's refusal to increase their salaries.

Top PLO visitor at French foreign ministry

PARIS (R) — Top Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Ahmad Kureish called at the French foreign ministry Monday in the first contact between the PLO and France's new centre-right government. A ministry spokesman said Mr. Kureish, head of the PLO's economic affairs and planning department, met Secretary-General Serge Boizot. No details were immediately available on their talks.

UAE cracks down on dirty taxi drivers

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Authorities in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are cracking down on dirty taxi drivers, impounding their cars and taking away their licences until they clean up their act. "They gave the car back to me today but not the licence," said one driver whose taxi was among 83 that police seized here Saturday. "They told me I can get the licence if I clean my car and put on proper clothes." A police official said there would be more raids to ensure the UAE's 3,000 taxi drivers comply with health and safety rules. "Some of them had the same clothes on for two weeks. Their cars were very dirty and the air condition was out of order," the police official said. Fadi Khan of Pakistan said he passed the test. "The policeman looked into my car and started smelling," he recalled. "He then stared at me and asked: How many days have you been wearing these clothes? I said three days, he then told me if it is better to change them the next day." Iqbal Khan, another Pakistani, said police complimented him. "They said nice words to me when they saw my car was very clean as I have just cleaned it," he said. "I think they are right because how can you take a taxi full of sand and dirt and its driver has the same clothes on for 20 days?" The crackdown is part of a long-term health campaign that was shut many restaurants and banned spitting in public.

U.N. sends medical aid to Najibullah

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The United Nations sent medical supplies to Afghanistan's war-shattered capital Monday as well as a doctor for ex-ruler Najibullah, who is suffering from kidney stones. Mr. Najibullah has been confined to a sprawling U.N. compound since the Afghan resistance, which he battled for 14 years, overran Kabul last year. He has been suffering from kidney stones for nearly three months, and medical workers who have examined him say he has lost nine kilograms, said Sotirios Mousouris, the U.N.'s special envoy to Afghanistan. Mr. Mousouris has appealed to Afghanistan's fragmented government to let Mr. Najibullah leave the country for medical treatment, but so far they have refused. Mr. Mousouris said the United Nations sent a doctor to examine Mr. Najibullah, although his condition is not believed to be serious. The two U.N. aircraft that left Islamabad for Kabul also carried tonnes of medical supplies and equipment for hospitals in the devastated capital. Mr. Mousouris said the United Nations is particularly worried about an estimated 200,000 people displaced by the bloody fighting between rival rebel groups in the past year.

Indonesia begins transporting pilgrims

JAKARTA (AP) — Indonesia Monday began transporting nearly 175,000 Muslims to Saudi Arabia for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. This year's Mecca pilgrimage is the biggest ever arranged by the government. The minister of transportation, Haryanto Darminto, who made a last-minute inspection at Jakarta's Halim Perdanakusuma airport, said he wanted to prevent a repeat of the chaos that marred last year's return arrangement, which delayed thousands of pilgrims. About 104,860 pilgrims joined the government-arranged trip last year and were delayed because chartered planes were not ready. A total of 175 flights will leave from four main airports in Jakarta, the North Sumatra capital of Medan, Surabaya in East Java and Ojung Pandano in south Sulawesi. About 80 per cent of Indonesia's 180 million people are Muslim.

UAE, Omani leaders discuss Gulf security

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The leaders of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and neighbouring Oman discussed Gulf security during talks in a border city Monday, the official UAE news agency (WAM) reported. It said UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan met with Sultan Qaboos Ben Said in the UAE oasis city of Al Ain, where the Omani leader arrived Monday by land for a visit of a few hours. The talks covered the Gulf situation and ways to bolster security and stability in the region in addition to Arab and international issues and bilateral relations, the agency said. "The meeting was characterised by a spirit of full understanding and similarity of views," it said without elaborating. Sultan Qaboos, who later left the UAE, has proposed a 100,000-strong joint Gulf army to maintain security in the oil-rich region after the Gulf war. But the idea was apparently bogged down due to differences on details of the force.

Hong Kong team to make study in Israel

HONG KONG (AFP) — A 30-member delegation from Hong Kong's farming industry will leave Friday for Israel to study new agriculture technology there, a government spokesman said. The study tour, organised by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department, will participate in an international agricultural exhibition in Tel Aviv to learn new technology to promote Hong Kong's agricultural products. Thousands of agricultural experts from 115 countries are expected to take part in the triennial expo believed to have the most variety of exhibits. The group will also visit the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation headquarters in Rome. The delegation includes six marketing advisory board members.

Cyprus freezes Serbian assets

NICOSIA (AFP) — The Central Bank Tuesday ordered the freezing of an estimated several hundred million dollars in Serbian assets held in Cyprus, in line with U.N. sanctions. It sent letters to 20 offshore banks, including three Yugoslav banks, and six Cypriot ones, asking them to freeze accounts belonging to "Serbian-controlled entities." Andreas Philippou, a senior Central Bank official, said Serbian individuals are exempted. Mr. Philippou said there was "not more than a few hundred million dollars of Serbian-connected money in Cyprus." But he added a precise figure would not be known until the banks reported back to his office. Nor is it known how many of the some 500 Serbian offshore companies registered here will be affected by the freeze. He said most of these firms are held by individuals rather than by corporations or government-controlled firms. Central Bank Governor Afentios Afentios has denied reports that some off-shore Serbian firms in Cyprus were circumventing the initial U.N. sanctions-imposed last year. U.N. Security Council Resolution 820 calls for tougher sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia — Serbia and Montenegro — in a bid to end fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Somali gets 20 years for banditry

MOGADISHU (R) — A "notorious bandit" has been jailed for 20 years by a court in the central town of Baidoa, in Somalia's first judicial trial in two years. No details were available. But a spokesman for the U.S.-led Unified Task Force (UNITAF) said the trial on Monday involved a notorious bandit. The case was a test for newly set up regional judicial administrations, the spokesman said. The court's judgment was based on Somalia's former constitution and strict Islamic laws. Somalia has been in a state of anarchy, without a government or any form of authority or administration, since the overthrow of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in 1991.

PLO takes 'last gamble' on peace talks as influence wanes

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Yasser Arafat has staked everything on a gamble that he can win enough Israeli concessions to stave off his own people's swelling opposition to the Mideast peace talks.

He could well pull something out of the hat, as he has repeatedly done when the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was on the ropes.

But it may not be enough to halt the shift in the Palestinian centre of gravity from a movement that has championed the Palestinian cause for three decades to the new grassroots leadership in the occupied territories.

On the table in the talks that resumed Tuesday in Washington is limited autonomy for the Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip — not the independent state Palestinians have dreamed about for more than four decades.

To the "insiders," who have

endured a quarter-century of occupation, that means little more than Israeli military rule under another name.

For Mr. Arafat, his surviving old-guard veterans and their more pragmatic supporters, the U.S.-sponsored peace process is their best chance to secure a political foothold on which to eventually build a Palestinian homeland. It also might be their last chance.

There are deep anxieties in the PLO leadership in exile that their authority is being usurped by figures inside the occupied territories, who over the last five years have increasingly been directing the uprising against Israeli rule.

The PLO leadership is sharply divided over Mr. Arafat's insistence on continued participation in the peace process. His opponents in the hierarchy argue that the potential gains are now being outweighed by the catastrophic cost if they fail.

Support for Mr. Arafat in

the West Bank and Gaza has dwindled sharply in recent months as disillusioned and frustrated Palestinians swung behind the fundamentalist Hamas and other radical factions opposed to the talks.

"The violence in the territories will not stop until the Palestinians obtain their rights to independence," said Mustafa Hamarneh, director of Amman's Centre for Strategic Studies.

"If the uprising has shown anything, it's that anti-occupation violence works."

The negotiators themselves, all "insiders," strenuously objected to resuming the talks without guaranteed Israeli concessions. Mr. Arafat had to publicly support Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The delegates now need bodyguards in the occupied territories to protect them from their own people.

A Hamas leader, Ibrahim Ghosheh, said Saturday his faction will intensify attacks on the Israelis to thwart the peace

talks.

He said that did not mean killing Palestinian negotiators. But in the powderkeg territories, that may not count for very much.

In Lebanon, Mr. Arafat is already locked in a vicious blood feud with Abu Nidal's renegade Palestinian faction, the Fateh Revolutionary Council. It opposes any dealings with Israel and has killed many of Mr. Arafat's moderate lieutenants.

Ed Blanche, the AP's Middle East news editor, has covered the region since 1985.

as their disdain for PLO leaders comfortably in exile increased.

Militarily, the PLO is a spent force. Its guerrilla army was driven out of Lebanon by Israel's 1982 invasion and scattered around a half-dozen Arab countries. Palestinian sources said the fighters are leaving in droves these days.

The PLO's standing as a potent political force was waning even before Mr. Arafat's Gulf crisis debacle.

Now Mr. Arafat's only hope of reversing this is that the Israelis will realise it is in their interest to make concessions which will help him regain his once-unshakeable control of the Palestinian cause. Unless they produce some substantial compromise soon, it may be too late.

There are signs that the Israelis are softening.

Losing the Gulf money forced Mr. Arafat to introduce sharp austerity measures, including hefty cuts in support for Palestinian refugees and the occupied territories.

This has alienated the long-suffering "insiders" even more

NEWS ANALYSIS

More than 20 people on both sides have been slain since last June in the resurgent eye-for-an-eye vendetta.

Munir Makdah, a militia commander with Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fateh faction in South Lebanon, said Abu Nidal's gunmen "begin their killings... just before each round of Middle East talks."

Increased violence in the

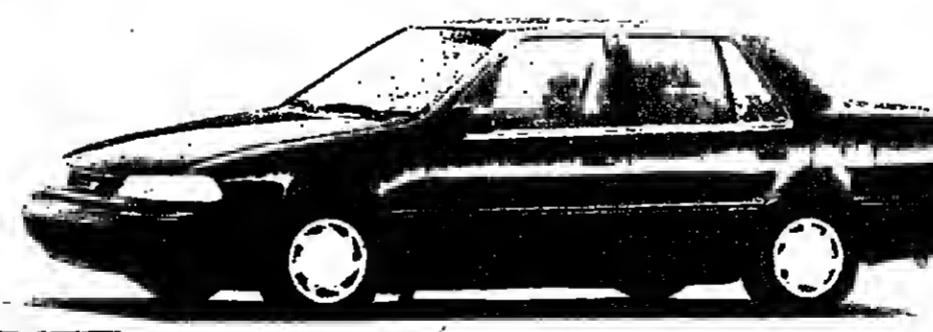
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HYUNDAI

Roberts, Piggott poised for Guineas showdown

NEWMARKET (AFP) — South African jockey Michael Roberts and English legend Lester Piggott are lined up for a showdown in the 1,000 Guineas Classic Thursday.

Roberts' ride, Elizabeth Bay, heads of the betting at 9-4, but Piggott fancies his chances of a 31st British Classic success on Nicie, an 8-1 tip.

"She's a small filly and wouldn't win any beauty contest, but she's a tough little thing and has won three group races," reasoned the 57-year-old master, who has won the 1,000 twice.

Piggott predicts that Robert's French mount will be the hardest to beat because of her "terrific speed", but feels that Zarani Sidi Anna and Sayyedati will not be far away either.

Roberts, meanwhile, believes that the biggest threat to an Elizabeth Bay triumph over the straight Rowley Mile will be 5-2 second favourite Sayyedati.

"On form the race seems to boil down to those two," said the reigning British flat champion.

Sayyedati proved a big disappointment in the Nell Gwyn Stakes, but trainer Clive Brittain is convinced she is in much better shape now.

He said: "She worked very well Friday and I've got her back to her best. She's put all the weight back on that she lost after the Nell Gwyn."

As for 8-1 shot Zarani Sidi Anna, 49-year-old jockey Bruce Raymond believes she can bring him his first Classic success.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Williams breaks Murphy's free throw record

MINNEAPOLIS (R) — Minnesota guard Michael Williams broke Calvin Murphy's 12-year-old NBA record for consecutive free throws when he sank his 79th in row on Sunday in the Timberwolves' season finale. Williams, a career 87.5 per cent free-throw shooter, has not missed a free throw since March 24 against San Antonio. He finished the game 10-for-10 to bring his season totals to 419-for-462, or 90.7 per cent. Murphy's record had been threatened several times in recent years. Earlier this season, Cleveland guard Mark Price, who leads the league in free-throw percentage, missed a free throw that would have tied Murphy's record.

Kempes retires

VALENCIA (AFP) — Mario Kempes, star of Argentina's 1978 World Cup winning team, is retiring from football. Kempes will bow out after a final appearance in a friendly match between PSV Eindhoven and Valencia, the club which bought him for three million pounds from River Plate of Argentina 1980. The 38-year-old striker, who now works in Spain as a TV and radio commentator, was twice the leading goal scorer in the Spanish League, as well as being top scorer in the 1978 World Cup finals.

Werder Bremen beat Bayern Munich

BONN (R) — New Zealander Wynton Rufer netted two penalties as Werder Bremen thrashed championship leaders Bayern Munich 4-1 on Monday to draw level with them on points at the top of the Bundesliga. Both have 39 points with six games remaining but Bayern, seeking a record 13th title, retained the lead because of a slightly better goal difference. The match will have done little for the confidence of Bayern's 19-year-old reserve goalkeeper Owe Cospodarek, a late replacement for Raimond Aumann, who was sidelined with a painful wisdom tooth.

No day dreams for prison bird Tyson

NEW YORK (AFP) — Mike Tyson says he is not even day dreaming about winning back his world title. "I never dream from the outside, I only dream from prison," the former heavyweight boxing champion who is serving a six-year jail term for rape told NBC TV. "When I sleep, I only dream about being in prison. I don't dream about outside. That's the reality, I don't dream about it. I deal with my circumstances the way they are." He also shot down reports of him converting to Islam. "You shouldn't believe everything you read," he said.

Wimbledon prize money soars

LONDON (R) — Prize money at this year's Wimbledon tennis championships has mushroomed by 14 per cent. The All England club announced Tuesday. Organisers said that overall prize money for 1993 would be \$5,048,450 pounds sterling (\$8.05 million), compared with last year's figure of 4,416,820 pounds (\$7.04 million). The 305,000 pounds (\$486,200) men's first prize is 40,000 pounds (\$63,760) more than Andre Agassi collected in 1992. The winner of the women's singles will receive a record 275,000 pounds (\$438,400), an increase of 35,000 pounds (\$55,790) on the figure won by Steffi Graf last year. Wimbledon is about to undergo a drastic facelift and wants to avoid losing its pre-eminent position in the tennis world while building work continues over the next few years.

Bruguera clinches rain-delayed Monte Carlo final

MONTE CARLO (Agencies) — Sergi Bruguera stormed through the second set Monday to win the rain-delayed final of the Monte Carlo Open, 7-6 (7-2), 6-0, ending Frenchman Cedric Pioline's bid for his first pro title.

It was the first title of the year for Bruguera, 22, and the seventh overall. He also won here in 1991.

The final, postponed from Sunday because of heavy rains, was interrupted for 90 minutes by another downpour Monday and then moved from the uncovered centre court to a covered secondary court.

Pioline, playing in only his second major final, trailed 5-6 in the first set when play was halted after 45 minutes. The interruption seemed to work against him, because he won only two points in the tiebreaker and put up little resistance in the second set.

The final initially was to be a best-of-five-set match, but was shortened because of the postponement.

Bruguera, ranked 16th in the world, was the 11th seed here in a field that included Stefan Edberg, Boris Becker and Ivan Lendl.

Pioline, 23, who beat Edberg in the semifinals, was unseeded and ranked 29th entering the tournament, but was assured of moving up at least six places because of his showing here.

Pioline, now France's second-ranked player behind guy Forget, lost to Pete Sampras last October in Lyon in his only previous final.

No Frenchman has won at Monte Carlo since Pierre Darmon in 1963.

Agassi, the second seed, withdrew without playing a match in the tournament, but has won four consecutive years. He has a 20-0 match-winning record in Atlanta.

Agassi was due to fly in Tuesday to be examined by tournament doctors, obligatory if he is to avoid a fine and loss of ranking points for pulling out of the tournament after the draw was made.

Agassi's spot in the draw was taken by a lucky loser from the qualifying event, Canadian Andrew Szajdor.

On a bad day for seeded players, eighth-seeded Aaron Krick-



Spain's Sergi Bruguera jubilates after beating France's Cedric Pioline in the final (AFP photo)

first seed to fall in opening-round action at the \$300,000 ATT Challenge Monday.

Martin, the fifth seed and ranked 39th in the world, was upset by 102nd-ranked Ronald Agoren of Haiti 7-6 (7-4) 7-5.

Agassi, the second seed, withdrew without playing a match in the tournament, but has won four consecutive years. He has a 20-0 match-winning record in Atlanta.

Agassi was due to fly in Tuesday to be examined by tournament doctors, obligatory if he is to avoid a fine and loss of ranking points for pulling out of the tournament after the draw was made.

Agassi's spot in the draw was taken by a lucky loser from the qualifying event, Canadian Andrew Szajdor.

On a bad day for seeded players, eighth-seeded Aaron Krick-

stein was upset by unseeded fellow American Jeff Tarango 6-1 6-3.

In a match between two tour veterans, 33-year-old Andres Gomez of Ecuador, the 1990 French Open champion, defeated 29-year-old American Jimmy Arias 6-3 6-3.

Graf given stiff test to start Hamburg Open defence. Steffi Graf started her defence of the Hamburg Open title with hard-fought 6-2, 7-5 win over Austria's Judith Wiesner.

The number two seed, undefeated in the six years she has played the tournament, dropped her serve in the second game. But Graf then eased through the remainder of the first set, breaking serve for 2-1 and again for 3-2 and 5-2.

Wiesner did hold two break points for 3-3 in that set to warn Graf she could expect a difficult match. She refused to concede the battle when Graf broke serve in the opening game of the second set.

Wiesner's persistence and ability to place her shots well, rather than rush into errors as she had done in the first set, paid off when she broke back for 3-3.

But Graf gained a vital and rather lucky second break with the aid of a net cord to lead 6-5 and then served out for victory.

Jana Novotna, number four seed, eased past injury hit Briton Joe Durie 6-0, 6-2. The British number one, who has been suffering from a mystery knee ailment, played too tentatively to put Novotna under any pressure.

But the Czech failed to maintain her momentum in the second set and committed a stream of forced errors. But Durie in turn served up six double faults and headed out of the competition.

Race on to replace Clough

NOTTINGHAM (AFP) — Brian Clough's shock decision to quit football management at the end of the season sparked an immediate race for the plum job in charge of Nottingham Forest.

A host of former Forest players, led by Martin O'Neill, were named as likely successors to one of the most controversial and gifted managers in English soccer history.

Clough, 58, will stay in charge for Forest's two remaining league games and attempt to stop the team from falling out of the English Premier League. He has been in charge for 18 seasons during which time they won one league title, two European Cups and four Football League Cups.

But the announcement was made by Forest chairman Fred Reacher in Nottingham Monday, following weekend reports that Clough's alleged heavy drinking was getting out of hand.

Reacher had responded to those reports by giving his manager a new vote of confidence. But the club could not ignore the relegation crisis and Clough's apparent inability to deal with it.

Meanwhile, Clough Tuesday was fired as manager of Nottingham forest, saying he was retiring from the English soccer team because he "had just had enough."

Clough, whose retirement Monday followed a campaign by the team director to have him ousted, said he had been thinking about quitting for more than a year.

Clough was making his first public comments since his resignation was announced.

O'Neill, a former Northern Ireland international who has just led Wycombe Wanderers into the Football League, is favourite to be the new manager. He spent 10 years at the City Ground when all the big honours were won.

Crewe manager Dario Gradi, whose former players include England trio David Platt, Geoff Thomas and Rod Jones, is second favourite with bookmakers William Hill.

Forest coach and former player Archie Gemmill and Clough's right-hand man Ron Fenton have also been mentioned. But there could be a long list of candidates.

Plymouth boss Peter Shilton and assistant John McGovern were both Forest stalwarts during the glory years. Colin Todd, now assistant at Bolton, also had a spell there and Leyton Orient general manager Frank Clark is another option.

Roy McFarland, Clough's captain during his days at Derby and now number two at the Baseball Ground, also figures on speculative shortlists as does Manchester United's Bryan Robson now looking for a first managerial post.

Clough, who had been given a contract extension covering next season, has been fighting relegation all season — which has turned out to be the most disappointing of his career.

Tension mounts in World Cup race

PARIS (AFP) — Nearly all the European favourites will be stepping up the pace this week in the race to reach next year's soccer World Cup finals in the United States.

The nine games Wednesday and a group one top of the table clash between Italy and Switzerland this weekend will go a long way toward sorting out the genuine candidates from the also-rans.

Some tough matches are in prospect as England take on Holland, Russia play eastern European rivals Hungary, France take on Sweden, Irish Republic play Denmark and Portugal entertain Scotland. Even though none of the six groups is yet decided, every game has something at stake.

Holland can ill afford a group two defeat at Wembley. And to set the pre-match psychological tussle underway, Dutch star Ruud Gullit Monday questioned whether England centrepiece Paul Gascoigne will ever play as brilliantly as he did before a knee injury nearly wrecked his career.

He added: "Holland are very skilful and we have to match them on that. But as long as we don't give them too much respect and go about our business I'm sure we can get a good result."

Both sides have seven points, but England have only played four games, one less than the Dutch who were beaten by surprise group leaders Norway 2-1 last September.

The Dutch have their own injury problems as they will be

without world player of the year Marco van Basten, defenders

serious knee problems, said that based on his own experiences Gascoigne would face "an uphill struggle to get back to the same level."

Gascoigne had had a new scare last week with the suspect knee rebuilt by surgeons, but he has cleared to play after worrying stiffness was found to be no more than a muscle strain.

"It's the first time I've ever had a reaction to a knock on the knee. Finding out there was nothing wrong is a big boost," said the Lazio midfielder. "It shows the knee is very strong and I don't have anything to worry about."

He added: "Holland are very skilful and we have to match them on that. But as long as we don't give them too much respect and go about our business I'm sure we can get a good result."

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Economy

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1993 9

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET						
HOUSING BANK CENTER JORDAN - SAME DAY TELEGRAMS TO / 663170 FOR TUESDAY 27/04/1993 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST						
COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE	PRICE	CHG.
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	71,760	136.000	136.000	137.500	137.500	+1.500
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	398,800	4.990	5.000	5.000	5.000	+0.000
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	20,120	1.720	1.720	1.800	1.800	+0.080
JORDAN KHAYAT BANK	764	3.630	3.620	3.620	3.620	-0.010
ABAD JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	2,420	2.430	2.420	2.420	2.420	-0.010
GENERAL BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	1,725	3.800	3.800	3.800	3.800	+0.000
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,640	3.280	3.280	3.280	3.280	+0.000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	3,570	5.950	5.950	5.950	5.950	+0.000
JORDAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION/JORDAN PHILADELPHIA INDUSTRIES BANK	23,100	1.720	1.720	1.720	1.720	+0.000
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE AND LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	749,742	1.800	1.890	1.890	1.890	+0.090
JORDAN ELECTRIC POWER COMPANY	1,744	3.210	3.210	3.210	3.210	+0.000
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	640	3.200	3.250	3.250	3.250	+0.050
JORDAN OPTICAL INDUSTRY	85,230	2.120	2.120	2.120	2.120	+0.000
JORDAN NATIONAL SECURITY LINES	3,943	1.340	1.300	1.320	1.320	+0.020
JORDAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX	2,250	2.250	2.250	2.250	2.250	+0.000
JORDAN PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	11,750	4.200	4.200	4.200	4.200	+0.000
PEAK HOLDINGS LTD	33,833	4.200	4.640	4.640	4.640	+0.440
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	153,030	1.720	1.720	1.720	1.720	+0.000
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT LEASING	7,046	1.220	1.160	1.160	1.160	-0.060
MAGNETIC EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	9,540	1.860	1.890	1.890	1.890	+0.030
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALMA	4,350	10.500	10.500	11.600	11.600	+1.100
JORDAN CIGARET FACTORIES	24,520	2.250	2.350	2.350	2.350	+0.100
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	34,570	10.500	10.500	10.500	10.500	+0.000
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	55,750	7.600	7.700	7.700	7.700	+0.100
JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	20,730	9.860	9.900	9.900	9.900	+0.040
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	60,320	7.100	7.150	7.150	7.150	+0.050
JORDAN PLASTICS MANUFACTURING	335,655	7.040	7.300	7.370	7.370	+0.330
JORDAN CHEMICAL DEZERTERS INDUSTRIES	6,520	1.220	1.220	1.220	1.220	+0.000
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	7,700	22.300	22.000	22.000	22.000	-0.300
JORDAN CADA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	103,750	3.320	3.320	3.320	3.320	+0.000
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE	69,160	3.310	3.320	3.320	3.320	+0.010
JORDAN ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	5,650	0.930	0.900	0.900	0.900	-0.030
JORDAN PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	12,198	3.230	3.230	3.270	3.270	+0.040
JORDAN MEDICAL CORPORATION	14,500	0.540	0.520	0.520	0.520	-0.020
JORDAN NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	64,515	6.100	6.180	6.180	6.180	+0.080
JORDAN INTERMEDIA PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	5,120	4.220	4.220	4.220	4.220	+0.000
JORDAN PRECAST CONCRETE INDUSTRY	44,634	3.420	4.200	4.200	4.200	+0.180
JORDAN CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	10,200	1.290	1.250	1.250	1.250	-0.040
JORDAN CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	364,210	11.100	11.220	10.850	10.850	-0.350
JORDAN KONJIT CO. FOR AGRIC. & FOOD PROD.	16,520	4.620	4.580	4.580	4.580	-0.040
UNIVERSAL INDUSTRIES	10,460	3.020	1.990	2.020	2.020	+0.030
	53,030	5.320	5.320	5.320	5.320	+0.000
GRAND TOTAL	3,707,162					
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 235674						
TRADED VALUE IN THE PARALLEL MARKET : 333345						

Financial Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets				
Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close	Date 26/4/1993	
Sterling Pound*	1.5834	1.5833		
Deutsche Mark	1.5705	1.5746		
Swiss Franc	1.4195	1.4240		
French Franc	5.3090	5.3195 **		
Japanese Yen	110.58	110.46		
European Currency Unit	1.2417**	1.2403 **		
USD Per SGD				
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT				
*** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. in GMT.				
** Eurocurrency Interest Rates			Dates 27/4/1993	
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.18	3.21	3.15	3.46
Sterling Pound	6.06	5.93	6.18	6.12
Deutsche Mark	7.93	7.75	7.43	6.81
Swiss Franc	5.12	4.93	4.68	4.43
French Franc	8.50	8.18	8.00	7.62
Japanese Yen	3.15	3.15	3.18	3.28
European Currency Unit	8.68	8.56	8.31	7.81
Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.				

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin	
Date: 27/4/1993	
Currency	Bid : Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6810 0.6830
Sterling Pound	1.0773 1.0827
Deutsche Mark	0.4328 0.4350
Swiss Franc	0.4786 0.4810
French Franc	0.1281 0.1287
Japanese Yen*	0.6158 0.6189
Dutch Guilder	0.3852 0.3871
Swedish Krona	0.0946 0.0951
Italian Lira*	0.0466 0.0468
Belgian Franc	0.02104 0.02115
* Per 100	
Other Currencies	Dates: 27/4/1993
Currency	Bid : Offer
Bahrain Dinar	1.7850 1.8200
Lebanese Lira*	0.03837 0.04580
Saudi Riyal	0.1813 0.1824
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2240 2.2740
Qatari Riyal	0.1843 0.1860
Egyptian Pound	0.1950 0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7350 1.7670
UAE Dirham	0.1843 0.1860
Greek Drachma*	0.3125 0.3425
Cypriot Pound	1.4375 1.4675
* Per 100	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES	
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.	
U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.2640/45
	1.5755/65
	1.7690/700
	1.4197/207
	32.35/39
	5.3180/230
	1470/1473
	110.10/15
	7.1900/200
	6.6500/600
	6.0525/625
	\$1.5840/50
	\$352.50/352.90
One sterling	
One ounce of gold	

Studies point to OPEC bid for higher oil price

LONDON (R) — Logic seems to be telling Saudi Arabia and the rest of OPEC that the time has come to opt for a strategy of higher world oil prices.

That logic may look inescapable, say some top Western analysts, if the United States and other consumer governments go ahead and levy proposed new "carbon taxes" on oil.

But, adds Mehdi Varzi at Kleinwort Benson Securities in London, "OPEC has little time left to re-think its fundamental strategy."

Mr. Varzi's team has just produced a 42-page study on the outlook for oil which concludes that the Saudis were probably right in the mid-1980s to adopt a policy of low prices.

Oil demand rebounded and Saudi revenue needs were met from higher volume. But Mr. Varzi thinks that times may have changed.

He shares a view which is widely held within OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) that cheap oil in the 1990s will simply invite escalation.

Media reports said Mr. Soros had paid \$400 million to Mr. Goldsmith for 10 million shares in U.S. gold producer Newmont Mining Corp. and that Mr. Goldsmith had invested the money in gold bullion.

"It's changed the way we see the market," one dealer said.

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Yeltsin tells Bosnian Serbs: No protection; Bihać under attack

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin warned Bosnian Serbs Tuesday they could expect no protection from Russia if they continued to defy an international peace plan for the former Yugoslav territory.

But a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the use of force by an international military contingent could deepen the conflict and spread it beyond the boundaries of former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Yeltsin described a plan drafted by mediators Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance and rejected Monday by Bosnian Serbs as only prospect for peace in the region.

"The time has come for decisive measures to quell the conflict," he said in a statement.

Mr. Yeltsin's statement suggested a more confident Kremlin approach to Yugoslavia following the president's victory over hardliners in Sunday's referendum.

Mr. Yeltsin won 58 per cent support in the plebiscite, which the president hopes will allow him to break the power of a parliament heavily coloured by nationalist thinking.

Nationalist opponents of the president regard his support of international sanctions against Serbia, including dispatch of troops under the U.N. flag, as a betrayal of cultural and ethnic links with Slav Serbs.

The United Nations stepped up the economic sanctions on rump Yugoslavia Tuesday over its failure to persuade Bosnian Serbs to accept the plan. The result, if the

sanctions are effectively applied, will be almost complete isolation.

Lord Owen warned of possible military consequences for Bosnian Serbs, who have forced Muslims from many of their territories in a campaign of what has become known as "ethnic cleansing."

The plan was co-authored with Mr. Vance proposed dividing Bosnia into 10 provinces on ethnic lines.

Mr. Yeltsin dispelled any possibility of Moscow breaking ranks with the West on Yugoslavia as long as he was president. The West had long feared the Kremlin could back down on a joint front that had been a litmus test of the post cold war order.

"The Russian Federation will not protect those who resist the will of the world community," Mr. Yeltsin said, withdrawing any remaining Serb hopes of help from Moscow.

The Russian president, despite his reference to "decisive measures," did not make it clear whether Russia would back the use of force against the Bosnian Serbs if economic sanctions failed to make them pull back.

But Foreign Ministry spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said diplomacy must retain the upper hand.

"There has been enough war on the territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina," he said.

The introduction of an international military component could further worsen the situation, creating conditions for the con-

flict to spread beyond its (present) boundaries ... with consequences that are hard to predict."

Meanwhile Serb forces defied the international community Tuesday by launching an offensive in Muslim-held northwestern Bosnia just as tightened United Nations sanctions went into force against them to accept the plan.

"It is now, I think, clear that the United States and our allies need to move forward with a stronger policy in Bosnia," Mr. Clinton said in Washington Monday. He gave no details.

The sanctions stiffened a U.N. trade and oil embargo which was designed to force Yugoslavia to use its influence to end fighting in Bosnia that has killed thousands of people.

Fighting worsened in Bosnia Tuesday, with the Bihać attack the worst of a number of violations of a month-old ceasefire agreed by all three warring sides.

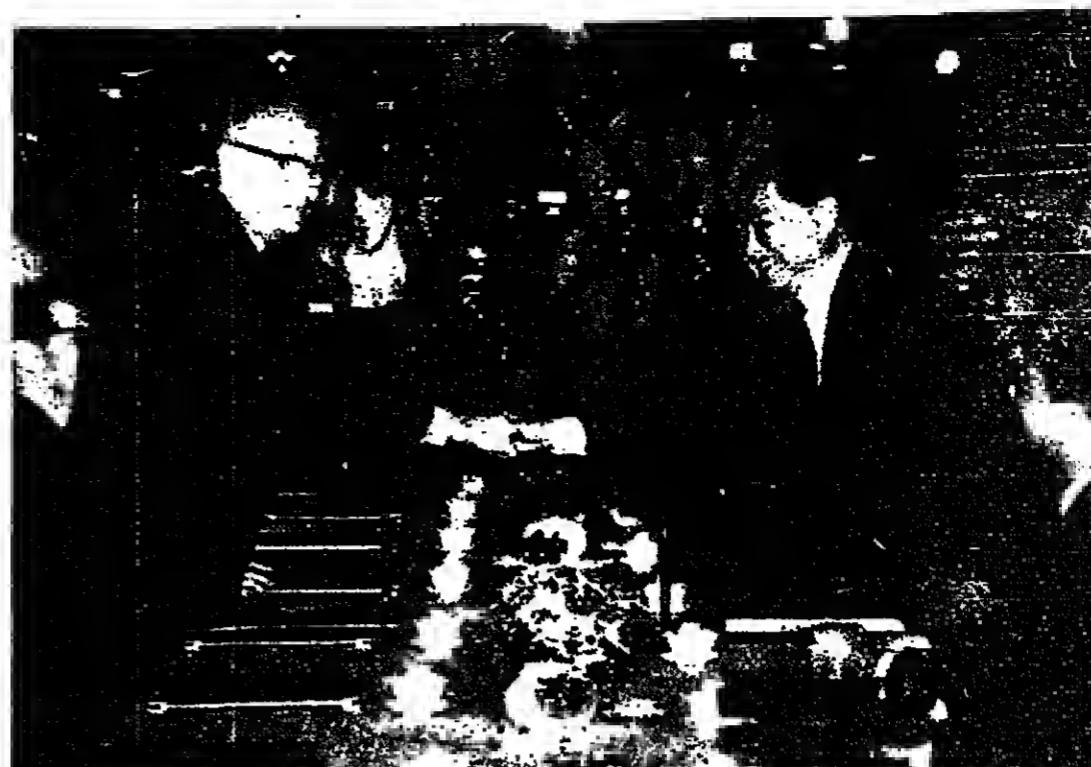
Muslim-controlled Sarajevo

Radio did not immediately report the Bihać offensive, although it said two people had been killed in shelling of the area.

The radio reported fighting in the northern Bosnian towns of Brcko and Gradačac. It said 800 shells were fired at Muslim defence positions in Gradačac, a tank attack had begun and the town was rocked by blasts. It also said an unspecified number of civilians had been killed in the eastern town of Gorazde.

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The Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, reported fighting between Serbs and Croats on nearly all fronts in the Serb-held Krajina region to the west and north of Bosnia.



Taiwan's chairman of the Strait Exchange Foundation (SEF), Koo Shen Fu (left) shakes hands with Wang Daohan, chairman of the Association of Relations Across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) before their meeting Tuesday (AFP photo)

China, Taiwan open historic talks

SINGAPORE (R) — China and Taiwan opened two days of talks in Singapore Tuesday, their highest-level negotiations since the end of the Chinese civil war in 1949.

The heads of the two semi-official bodies handling discussions to expand trade and investment, cooperation to fight crime, and the creation of a regular, formal channel of communication between them.

The talks marked an easing of cold war tensions and rapid growth in economic links between China and Taiwan since the late 1980s. Taiwanese investment in China is estimated to total over \$7 billion.

"Establishing contact after a gap of 40 years, there are many problems that must be solved. If we sit down and talk, all issues can be worked out," said Wang Daohan, chairman of China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait.

His Taiwanese counterpart Koo Chen-Fu, chairman of the Straits Exchange Foundation, said Monday that people on both sides "desire the resolution of confrontation and progress towards reconciliation".

Both Peking and Taipei's national governments, which lost the civil war, claim to be the sole legitimate ruler of all China including Taiwan, and have vowed to reunify the island with the Chinese mainland one day.

Spokesmen for both delegations said the Singapore talks were "non-political" and did not deal with the issue of reunification.

But Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which wants the island to declare independence and abandon reunification, said it feared the Nationalists might be taking a first step towards a secret political deal with Peking.

"The Democratic Progressive

Party accuses the Nationalist regime of conspiring to betray the rights of the people of Taiwan by holding secret talks with representatives of China," the DPP said in a statement.

The DPP was barred from taking part in the talks but sent a dozen members of its parliament to Singapore to publicise its stand. Local police snatched a protest banner from DPP demonstrators outside the venue of the talks Tuesday.

Spokesmen for both delegations described the atmosphere of the talks as cordial, but said differences on economic policy had not been resolved.

China urged Taiwan to lift its ban on direct air and sea links with the mainland, and remove remaining restrictions on imports of Chinese goods and visits by Chinese businessmen. Taiwan has repeatedly said it will not permit direct transport links until political tensions ease further.

COLUMN JOURNAL

Blame God, not men, women told in Zimbabwe

HARARE (AFP) — Women should blame their problems on God, not men. Zimbabwe Vice-President Joshua Nkomo told 60 started women at a development seminar, according to a report Tuesday. "The problem of women is not a problem brought about by men, it is a problem by the Creator himself," Mr. Nkomo was quoted as saying by the Herald newspaper. The 75-year-old Nkomo went on to say the Bible clearly showed that when Eve was created for a lonely Adam she "started problems" by letting Adam eat the forbidden fruit. "These problems are those that men and women face even today," Mr. Nkomo continued, to the amazement of the women meeting at the Zimbabwe Institute of Public Administration and Management outside Harare.

'Money launderer' quits after 31 years washing colts

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — San Francisco said good-bye to one of its most colourful characters Monday, when the world's only legal money-launderer retired after 31 years of washing dirty coins in a city hotel. Arnold Battiner began washing coins at the opulent St. Francis Hotel in downtown San Francisco in 1962 and has cleaned an estimated 17 million in spare change. By washing all the coins used in the hotel, Mr. Battiner continued a tradition that began in 1938 when the hotel manager of the day, Dan London, ordered silver dollars to be cleaned to stop ladies' white gloves for getting dirty. Mr. Battiner, now 88, sauntered proudly as hotel executives and other VIPs paid tribute to his long career at a champagne retirement party at the hotel and presented him with gifts and commemorative certificates. Jim Lazarus, chief of staff to San Francisco Mayor Frank Jordan, gave Mr. Battiner a proclamation declaring Monday Arnold Battiner Day in San Francisco. A plaque honouring Mr. Battiner will also be hung in the hotel lobby. The frail-looking white-haired Battiner, who was born three months after the St. Francis opened in 1904, said he had cleaned enough coins "to pay off the national debt."

51-year-old Madame Claude arrested for running brothel

MOULINS, France (AFP) — An 81-year-old widow has been jailed on charges of running a brothel at her home in this central French town, police said Monday. Renée Claude was suspected of engaging prostitutes aged 40 to 60 who used one of her bedrooms to entertain clients over the past 12 to 15 years. The investigators said she exploited the distress of the women who had financial problems.

Ivory coast cannibals jailed

ABIDJAN (R) — An Ivory Coast court has jailed three self-confessed cannibals and witches for five years, the evening newspaper Ivoir Soir reported. Quoting from the court transcript the paper said the women, Yvonne Deagben Sake, Hélène Toun Manou and Mose Kpea, ate four people, including Ms. Manou's son Oulai. The three witches, from the remote village of Cahala some 600 kilometres north of Abidjan, were arrested after the death by illness of a village youth. A woman who had been trying to cure the ailing boy accused Ms. Sake and Ms. Manou of killing him with magic and Ms. Manou went to the police to complain of slander. She denied killing the boy but admitted eating his corpse. Ivoir Soir said the women were sentenced to five years imprisonment and fines of about \$5,000 each upon their release, a sum it would be impossible for them to raise. The paper did not say if they were convicted of murder, cannibalism or other offence.

Ex-PoW turned flat into cell

LONDON (R) — A Polish man haunted by his time as a prisoner during World War II turned his London flat into a cell with bars on the windows and slept in a cage every night, police told an inquest. Polish-born Kazimerz Symanski, 81, died of pneumonia after living for five years in his home-made cell. Neighbours said he was afraid of being gassed. Police said he had no electricity or water supply. "That flat was his world and had he been removed, it would have been the death of him," policeman Nigel Newland said.

Senate panel recommends Andreotti trial

ROME (Agencies) — A Senate panel recommended Tuesday that former Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti should be stripped of his immunity from prosecution so that he can stand trial on charges of mafia conspiracy.

Panel member Antonio Franchi told reporters 11 of Mr. Andreotti's fellow-senators voted in favour, 11 abstained and one opposed the proposal. The issue is now due to be put to the vote of the full 326 members of the Senate next month.

Palermo magistrates on March 27 advised the seven-times Christian Democrat premier he was under inquiry, alleging on the basis of evidence from mafia turncoats that he had been cosa nostra's protector "from at least 1978 ... certainly to 1992."

Mr. Andreotti denied the allegations, accusing the Sicilian magistrates of political bias and saying he was the victim of a mafia vendetta because of his lifelong battle against organised crime.

"This is not a verdict of condemnation," said Sen. Franchi, a member of the ex-Communist opposition, after the panel vote.

"We recognise that Palermo magistrates did their work with a high sense of responsibility — their attitude was not vindictive," he told reporters.

"I am not afraid of the truth and will tackle with firmness and decision all necessary moves to unmask this incredible machination," Mr. Andreotti said in a statement released after the panel vote Tuesday.

He said unspecified pressures had been put on the 23-member Senate panel "in order to create a climate of intimidation."

Mr. Andreotti said that when the full 326-member Senate would meet to debate the case, he would shed full light on what was happening "because it is not possible to trample on a whole life dedicated to the service of the state."

Meanwhile, the choice of Central Bank Governor Carlo Azeglio Ciampi as new prime minister was broadly welcomed in Italy Tuesday, especially in the economic sector where he has built up a store of trust over the years.

He is the first person from outside parliament to hold the post in the history of the republic, choosing Mr. Ciampi Monday, resident Oscar Luigi Scalfaro took account of the strong desire or change voiced by the electorate in last week's referendum.

"Governor of Italy," the press said him, noting that the nomination of the 73-year-old Ciampi had caught political parties on the wrong foot.

Mr. Ciampi immediately ruled out consultations with them on the formation of a government, which is expected to contain a large number of technocrats to carry out the reforms the country called for in the referendum.

Now having to play second fiddle, the outgoing centre-left ruling majority has nonetheless issued Mr. Ciampi of its support.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

42 die, scores missing in Colombian flood

SANTAFE DE BOGOTA (AFP) — Rescue crews worked frantically into the night after flood waters tore through a rural area of northwestern Colombia, leaving 42 people dead, scores missing and hundreds more homeless, Medellin police said. The Tequendama River in Antioquia Department burst its banks after heavy rains, destroying more than 50 houses and coffee, cane and banana crops, in rural areas around the town of Los Andes, 120 kilometres from Medellin. "It's impossible to know how many are dead and missing," said a police spokesman in Medellin. The storm brought down five bridges, cutting off road links to the Los Andes and its surrounding agricultural area, he said. Health authorities in Medellin have reported 73 people injured and rescue teams and emergency supplies were flown from Santafe de Bogota.

London police hunt 2 blast suspects

LONDON (AFP) — Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad Tuesday was questioning some 10 people arrested Monday and hunting two others seen fleeing from a hauliers truck shortly before it exploded, devastating London's financial district. The blast Saturday morning killed one, injured 45 and crippled business, leaving the area of London known as The City in shambles. Investigators were also analysing a videotape made by a surveillance camera in the region, but held out little hope the tape would produce identifiable images because of the angle and distance of the camera. The tape "doesn't help us at all as towards the identification of anyone," said David Tucker, head of the anti-terrorist branch. A witness who described the two fleeing suspects could say little more than that they wore balaclavas, said Tucker. He said the two walked away separately from Bishopsgate, site of the blast, and may have headed for Aldgate Underground station. Tucker said the truck had been stolen in northern England more than a month earlier, then repainted and fitted with false registration plates.

Georgia denies bombing Abkhazian town

MOSCOW (R) — The Georgian Armed Forces Tuesday denied Russian reports that one of their warplanes had bombed a town in the rebel western region of Abkhazia. Russian Television said Monday that a Georgian plane had bombed the separatist stronghold of Gudauta and a nearby Russian military base, killing a woman civilian and a Russian officer and wounding 25 people. "This is false information, we categorically deny it," a Georgian Defence Ministry spokesman said. Hundreds of people have been killed in Abkhazia since fighting broke out last August between Georgian government forces and Abkhazian separatists. Georgia accuses Russian forces of secretly arming and assisting the rebels from former Soviet bases in the Black Sea region. Russia denies the charges.

Kim Il-Sung's health deteriorating

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korean President Kim Il-Sung's health appears to have taken a turn for the worse recently, a Seoul press report said Tuesday, quoting unidentified South Korean officials. Yonhap News Agency quoted a Unification Board official as saying that a videotape of Mr. Kim's 81st birthday celebration on April 15 showed he appeared to have difficulty moving, especially when welcoming Cambodia's Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Another senior South Korean official was quoted as saying that, based on his television appearances and intelligence reports, the health of the world's longest reigning Communist dictator was "deteriorating considerably." Yonhap quoted the senior official as saying Mr. Kim was complaining from lack of sleep, hinting that he was suffering from insomnia.

Japan to join U.N. in Mozambique

TOKYO (R) — Japan, eager to play a larger role in U.N. operations, decided Tuesday to send 53 armed peacekeepers to Mozambique next month at the world body's request, government officials said. It is Tokyo's second post-World War II commitment to multilateral peacekeeping operations. Japan sent its first corps of peacekeepers — 600 engineering troops — to Cambodia in September. Since then, it has been under pressure from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to help elsewhere, particularly in Mozambique. A defense agency official said 48 of the peacekeepers would join transport units in the southern African country and the remaining five officers would be sent to the headquarters of U.N. Peacekeeping Forces (ONUMOZ) there.

Astronauts begin space science work

HOUSTON (R) — Astronauts aboard Columbia activated a cargo bay full of experiments as the joint German-U.S. space shuttle mission appeared to have left its troubles behind. The only apparent complication was a malfunctioning freezer for storing blood and urine specimens, but the use of a backup unit was expected to fix that problem. The 55th shuttle mission is strictly scientific, lacking any attention-getting activities such as space walks or satellite deployment. The German-U.S. effort includes studies in life and materials sciences, medicine, robotics, earth observation and astronomy. The seven-member crew is split into two shifts so the mission's 88 experiments can be staffed round-the-clock, with breaks for media interviews and scheduled amateur radio hookups with groups on Earth.

S. African homeland refuses to give up independence

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Lucas Mangope, president of Bophuthatswana black homeland, warned Tuesday he would not allow the territory to be reincorporated into South Africa.

He called for a constitution for a new South Africa, to be drawn up by unelected "experts" to be put to a referendum before any elections took place.

"As things stand at the moment, there is no question whatsoever, I repeat, on question whatsoever, of Bophuthatswana giving up her independence. We are surrendering nothing," Mr. Mangope told the territory's legislature.

"It is absolutely necessary to finalise all the principles of a new constitution at the multi-party negotiations (taking place currently in Johannesburg), have the constitution written by experts, and then have it approved in a referendum before holding elections for a new South Africa," he said.

Bophuthatswana, rich in minerals and the most economically viable of the four tribal homelands granted "independence" by Pretoria in concordance with the apartheid policy of racial segregation, has been slated by the African National Congress (ANC) for its repressive security forces and lack of political freedom.

The preliminary findings of the investigation, which showed the fire was started in two places inside the sprawling complex at about the same time, supported statements by federal authorities immediately after the last tank rammed the building.

Instead, photographic evidence showed there was a lag of several minutes, he said.

Gray also said there was evidence that the blaze could not have resulted from a single blow to the structure.

"The two locations (where the fire started) were significantly distant from each other for us to conclude they could not have been caused by the same ignition source at the same time," Mr. Gray told a news conference.

Instead, photographic evidence

which is often more tense. The Khmer Rouge is refusing to take part in the U.N. peacekeeping operation to stage democratic elections next month designed to unify the country's four warring factions under an elected government. Its recent withdrawal from Phnom Penh and continued hostility towards U.N. personnel raised fears of renewed civil war.